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When
parents
are away
- teenagers play

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Second homes

Think of the children, says Clinton

Rock singers fly to boost the Yes vote

BY MARTIN FLETCHER AND PHILIP WEBSTER

PRESIDENT CLINTON yesterday issued a stark warning against the risks of allowing the Northern Ireland peace agreement to "blow apart" as leading showbusiness figures lined up with politicians to rally Unionist support before Friday's referendum.

As Mr Clinton and Tony Blair stood together for the second day in succession to urge the Ulster people to back the Good Friday accord, preparations were being made for a hastily arranged "yes" concert to bolster David Trimble tonight in Belfast's Waterfront Hall. The Irish rock group U2 fly in this morning to team up with Ash, the Protestant group from County Down, in a fresh bid to boost the struggling Unionist leader. After the performance the 53-year-old Mr Trimble will appear on stage with John Hume, the 61-year-old leader of the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, in the two men's first joint campaign appearance.

In Belfast yesterday, news of the concert overshadowed a potentially damaging public rejection of the accord by Lord Molyneux, Mr Trimble's long-serving predecessor as party leader.

Lord Molyneux, speaking on BBC radio, said Mr Trimble had signed the accord under duress. "Changes were made to the document in the final hour. That was followed by what amounted to an ultimatum to decide the future of Ulster in 15 minutes or less. In my opinion that was pressure or blackmail amounting

to brutality." Mr Trimble retorted angrily in a way that suggested an irreconcilable rift had opened in his party. He said he had "played the hand of cards" Lord Molyneux bequeathed him and substantially improved it.

In the tense countdown to Friday's vote, Mr Blair will take part in a live radio phone-in today, designed to offer further reassurance to concerned Unionist voters.

In London yesterday, President Clinton stepped up his campaign for a "yes" vote by urging the people of Ulster to think about their children and grandchildren when they made their decisions.

In his most personal plea so far he used his daughter, Chelsea, as an example of the youngsters for whom a "yes" vote could bring stability for generations. He said: "If I were an Irish Protestant, which I am, living in Northern Ireland instead of the United States, I would be thinking about my daughter's future and her children's future. I hope everyone will be thinking in that way - thinking about the future and thinking about the children."

Mr Clinton warned that the risk of voting "yes" was much smaller "than the risk of letting it blow apart".

Mr Blair said that if peace and stability could be achieved, the chances for the people of Northern Ireland would be "just amazing". Imminently exciting opportunities would arise for the Province, in which people would find it attractive to invest. I know

that there are still people in Northern Ireland yet to make up their minds. In the end the decision has got to be for people in Northern Ireland." He stressed that the choice lay between "the agreement and everything slipping back".

More than 2,000 tickets to tonight's concert are being distributed to Protestant and Catholic sixthformers from local schools, and organisers hope the concert will lend the "yes" campaign some glamour and galvanise the youth vote.

A joint survey by Belfast's two morning newspapers yesterday showed two-thirds of 18 to 30-year-olds planning to vote on Friday supported the accord, but among young Protestants, the figure was just 25 per cent with 40 per cent opposed.

Bob McCartney, the UK Unionist Party leader who is spearheading opposition to the agreement, claimed yesterday there had been an "enormous surge in support for the 'no' campaign and we have no doubt that this surge will reach a crescendo by Friday".

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, flies to Northern Ireland today to lend support, and tomorrow Mr Blair arrives for his third visit in as many weeks. Speaking in Boston, Bertie Ahern, the Irish Taoiseach, sought to reassure Unionists by promising that, if the accord was approved, any further terrorist violence would be "firmly crushed".

Referendum campaign, page 8



Peter York, Ellesborough Golf Club's general manager, scooped the world's press when he photographed the President and Mr Blair at play

Clinton declares Blair par for the course

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

"THERE are only two rules about playing golf with the President," Donna Shalala, the US Health Secretary, said last year. "Don't keep a score and the President always wins."

Tony Blair might take a relaxed attitude to the conventions of international summitry but this was one piece of protocol he was in no danger of breaching yesterday when he played a few holes with President Clinton.

For while the President has a handicap of 12 and plays with a passion known only to aficionados of the sport, the Prime Minister until yesterday had never swung a club in anger.

Mr Clinton was staying at Chequers, the Prime Minister's official country residence in Buckinghamshire, and



Clinton: "It was embarrassing how good he was"

planned to let off steam between the G8 and US-European Union summits by practising his shots at nearby Ellesborough Golf Club. Although, like all Prime Ministers, Mr Blair is an honorary member of the club which once formed part of the Chequers estate, he had not intended to join the President.

But late on Sunday night

Mr Clinton persuaded Mr Blair to change his mind and the Prime Minister found himself standing on the first tee at 6.30am yesterday desperately wishing he had spent less of his youth on football and tennis.

His sole experience with club and ball was a paltry six shots on driving range in Australia some years ago. Mr

Blair told Mr Clinton of his predicament and the President was diplomatically accommodating.

First, he drove two balls off each tee so that Mr Blair could play the less difficult shots on to the green. Second, he gave lessons.

Mr Clinton said: "I told him how to hold the club, how to stand, how to swing and it was embarrassing how good he was."

"All I had to do was hit it off the tee. He two-putted them - all four of them - and he only missed two shots. The rest of them he hit good. It was unbelievable. Either he is an unbelievable athlete or I have a career as a golf instructor. One of the two things must be true."

Mr Blair said: "I haven't played golf before, but I had the best instructor I could possibly have. It's not every-one who's been given golfing



"It must be Tony Blair - all his shots keep veering to the right"

lessons by the President of the United States of America. But we will put it down to beginner's luck, a bit like politics." Between 6.30am and 8am Continued on page 2, col 6

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Deadly air

One in 20 deaths from lung cancer in England is caused by radon in the home. About 1,800 people die each year as a result of breathing in concentrations of the radioactive gas in their house, according to research in the *British Journal of Cancer*. Page 7

Holiday art

Thirteen fine-art students were last night patiently trying to explain how using a £1,100 exhibition grant for a holiday in Spain was a perfectly proper endeavour. For some reason, their critics, who supplied the money, were not entirely convinced. Page 3

£10m missal saved for the nation

BY MARK HENDERSON

THE Sherborne Missal, a Gothic manuscript believed to be worth more than £10 million, has been saved for the nation after *The Times* revealed that its owner was considering selling it to cover an inheritance tax bill.

Lord McIntosh of Harrogate, the Arts Minister, told the House of Lords yesterday that the illuminated prayerbook had been donated to the state in lieu of inheritance tax owed by the Duke of Northumberland after the death of his elder brother in 1996.

The donation followed negotiations between the Duke and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. Arrangements were being made to transfer the missal to the British Library where it has been on loan.

Customs will not prosecute Sandline over arms embargo

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Customs and Excise Department yesterday decided not to press charges against Sandline, because of "clear evidence" of meetings between the Foreign Office and the firm to discuss Sierra Leone, it emerged yesterday.

Customs issued a statement suggesting that Sandline may have breached the UN arms embargo but that it could not go ahead with prosecution due to "circumstances" leading up to the supply of arms.

Whitehall sources later admitted that the main reason that Customs decided not to press charges was evidence of discussions between Sandline and Foreign Office officials which may have prejudiced the firm's thinking.

"There was clear evidence of meetings between FCO officials and Sandline discussing

Sierra Leone, one way or another. This would make it unfair and unsafe to prosecute and would not be in the public interest," said one source.

During a heated Commons debate Robin Cook, disclosed that Foreign Office officials had met Sandline International on January 19 where Sierra Leone had been raised.

As the Tories tried to step up the pressure on the Government over the arms-to-Africa affair Mr Cook confirmed that the Foreign Office inquiry would be led by Sir Thomas Legg, a former Permanent Secretary, backed by Sir Robin Ibb, a former ICI director and adviser to Margaret Thatcher.

But a Mr Cook angrily denied that he had been informed before April 28 of any Foreign Office complicity

in any breach of the embargo either through documentation or through conversations.

Foreign Office officials confirmed that Craig Murray, the Deputy Head of the Foreign Office's West Africa Department, met Colonel Spicer of Sandline on January 19. The company claimed that someone was planning to run shipments of arms to Sierra Leone and asked whether this was legal.

They were then read the text of the Security Council resolution covering the arms embargo. Sandline representatives asked if the reference to Sierra Leone included everyone connected with the country and were told that that was the case, according to Mr Cook.

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Indonesian robbers kill two Britons

FROM DAVID WATTS
IN JAKARTA

TWO Britons were killed in Jakarta during the current turmoil in the Indonesian capital, apparently the victims of two crimes.

According to the British Embassy the two men died in separate robberies, unconnected to the political disturbances.

The announcement came as thousands of expatriates continued to flee the country as supporters and opponents of President Suharto squared up for a fresh confrontation on the capital's streets.

The position of Mr Suharto appeared to weaken as Harjoko, his former ally and the Speaker of Parliament, called for his resignation.

Suharto pressure, page 21

Frenchman puts in winning bid for Christie's

BY ALAN HAMILTON

CHRISTIE'S, the biggest and most blue-blooded of British auction houses, became the latest piece of English heritage to go abroad yesterday when it announced that it was being sold to the French.

Francois Pinault, the son of a Breton forester, has acquired the 232-year-old business for £720 million, to add to his varied portfolio that includes the Chateau Latour vineyards, the Au Printemps department store chain, Samsonite luggage and the Colorado ski resort of Vail.

The bid, confirmed and recommended to shareholders by the Christie's board,

sent shares in the world's oldest auction house leaping. The offer is worth £4 a share, and values the company at more than £2 billion.

If M Pinault succeeds, he will take yet another British name into foreign hands, following the transfer this year of the Savoy Hotel group to Americans, and the certainty that Rolls-Royce will fall to the Germans, be they BMW or Volkswagen.

Founded in London by James Christie in 1766, the auction house has for years been locked in battle with its arch-rival, Sothebys, which has been American-owned since the early 1980s. Two years ago Christie's overtook

Sothebys in value of sales for the first time in 43 years.

M Pinault, a long-standing Christie's client who left school at 16 to work in his father's timber yard before building his own fortune in the French paper industry, made the offer through his holding company Artemis. Last month he bought a 27 per cent stake in the company, and last week was persuaded by the Christie's board to declare his intentions.

If the deal is accepted by shareholders, it will mean substantial windfall profits for 300 directors and staff, including an expected £18 million for chief executive, Mr Davidge said yesterday that the offer represented excellent value for shareholders. "We are proud of our British past, but we have become a global company."



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Buying The Times overseas

Austria	S 30
Belgium	8 F 100
Canada	\$3.50
Cashier's	Fr 325
Cyprus	£1.20
Denmark	Dkr 18.00
Finland	Fmk 30.50
France	F 16.00
Germany	Dm 4.50
Gibraltar	90p
Greece	Dr 600
Netherlands	F 1.50
Italy	L 4.500
Luxembourg	L 7.50
Madras	Rs 350
Malta	45c
Norway	Nkr 25.00
Portugal	Esc 340
Spain	Ps 325
Sweden	Skr 25.00
Switzerland	S Fr 5.00
Tunisia	Din 3.200
USA	\$3.50



Edifying spectacle as Campbell lifts the fog

Few take much notice of speeches by Liberal Democrat spokesmen, which is sometimes a pity. Robin Cook's stewardship of policy towards Sierra Leone came under fierce attack in the Commons yesterday. A fluent assault by his Tory Shadow, Michael Howard, sounded almost convincing. The counter-attack by a vexed Foreign Secretary, chippy to the point of defensiveness, almost convinced the other way. And each in his corner was bayed on by government or opposition backbenchers. A

detached observer may have felt entertained but no better informed. As for the tone, Mr Howard's indignation sounded just a touch synthetic, and his own record dogs him; while Mr Cook's agitation struck a faintly rattled note. Tory backbenchers were too pious by half and Labour appeared loyal but troubled — in the case of Diane Abbott (Hackney N & Stoke Newington) deeply troubled. The Attorney General, John Morris, looked awkward too, caught in three-cornered ex-

changes between Government and Opposition benches on the decision not to prosecute Sashimi. Tony Lloyd, Cook's Africa Minister, appeared the most troubled of all, almost in shock. He displays symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder — as though he has seen a ghost and is troubled by flashbacks and bad dreams. But who was right? Which were the right answers? Which the right questions? Commons debate rarely assists understanding, and the poses struck by both sides



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

achieved little beyond suggesting that the Tories still fail to get their teeth in, while the Government remain uneasy. An angry fog swirled round the whole dispute. But for as long as Menzies Campbell spoke the fog seemed to lift. Not that the Liberal Democrat foreign affairs spokesman said anything new, but that, standing

back and conveying a sense of experience and intelligence, his criticisms of the Government's position (though they were milder than Howard's) struck home. If anything emerged from these attacks and from the manner of Cook's defence, it was that the Foreign Secretary seemed at his shakiest when trying to straddle the gap

between his own statements and those of his Prime Minister. Ironic Opposition cries of "hoo-ha" and "but the good guys won" punctuated, not to say punctured, Cook's defences. And there was a short, whispered panic on the government front bench on how to handle the Customs & Excise decision not to prosecute. Mr Campbell focused his attack on both targets. Earlier, the idiom of a session of questions to the Defence Secretary enabled your sketchwriter to test an hypothesis which has long

teased. What draws a middle-aged man to a specialised interest in foreign warfare? I have long suspected that it was the boys who were regularly beaten up in the playground who later determined to surprise the world with their knowledge of the latest Uz4mm sub-machinegun. And yesterday it struck me how many of the MPs who had chosen to attend Defence Questions wore spectacles. Thirty-two Labour MPs were present: 15 had glasses — 47 per cent. So I counted the first 32 members of the public

across the front rows of the Strangers' Gallery. They looked of similar age or older. Nine had glasses — 28 per cent. Then I tried the Opposition. Twenty-four members were present: 12 wore spectacles — 50 per cent. Finally I tried the Press and Reporters' Gallery: six out of 19, 31 per cent. As exchanges on the Strategic Defence Review continued, one listened, of course, to the argument; but the abiding impression was of the dazle, reflecting the television lights, of 27 pairs of MPs' spectacles.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New laws 'must take account of women'

Policy makers have been told to assess the impact on women of all proposed legislation. Civil servants were issued with new guidelines yesterday at a private meeting with Joan Ruddock, the Minister of Women. The document, which has not been made public, says that every Whitehall department should consider the specific impact on women before policy is changed. Officials will be expected to use and produce statistics that show how men and women would be differently affected by legislation. Mrs Ruddock wants the rest of Whitehall to follow the example set by the Department for Education and Employment, which already uses separate sets of figures to show how girls and boys perform differently at school.

Offer was 'error'

David Longman, 44, says that he was convinced he had been appointed director of business development, for £60,000 a year, at a Nottingham firm of solicitors when he received a letter from the firm, Browne Jacobson. He has now been told that he has not been offered the job and that there was "a typing error". He is taking legal advice.

Stones gig off

The opening concert of a European tour by the Rolling Stones has been put back after the guitarist Keith Richards broke a rib falling off a ladder in the library of his Connecticut home. The Berlin concert was to take place this Friday. It is hoped that British shows, beginning at Wembley on August 20, are likely to go ahead as planned.

Footballer fined

Georgi Kinkladze, 24, the Manchester City footballer recently transferred to the Dutch club Ajax for £5.5 million, was fined £2,500 and banned from driving for 12 months after admitting dangerous driving. He wrote off his Ferrari when it flew off the road and crashed into a bridge support in Hale, Manchester. He needed 27 stitches after the accident.

Beckett drops action against 'supergun' man

THE Government is to pay almost £1 million in legal costs after dropping a prosecution against Gerald James, former chairman of Asta Holdings plc, and three other former directors in the so-called "supergun" arms to Iraq affair. A High Court judge said yesterday that the Department of Trade and Industry, which formally dropped the proceedings against Mr James, should pay his legal costs. Solicitors on each side have yet to agree the final figure. The proceedings were aimed at seeking the disqualification of Mr James as a company director after his disclosures about the export of arms to Iraq and Iran. But the trial collapsed in April after the disclosure of a letter written by DTI investigators stating there was no justification for taking proceedings against Mr James and three other former directors of Astra, an armaments company — John Anderson, Christopher Gumbleby and James Miller. Mr James has consistently argued that actions taken to remove him as a director of Astra and to disqualify him from holding any directorship

Solicitor attacks delay in ending proceedings against former chairman, reports Frances Gibb

were to discredit him and undermine the disclosures he made in 1990 about the arming of Iran and Iraq in the 1980s. Kevin Robinson, his solicitor, said that abandoning the case prevented a "major injustice" occurring. But he was disappointed that the judge, Mr Justice Raftery, did not seem sympathetic to the view that the prosecution should never have been mounted in the first place, despite the existence of the letter stating there was no justification for taking proceedings against Mr James. The department had sought not to disclose the letter, calling it "irrelevant and inadmissible," he said. But it was later shown to be a crucial document in the decision leading to the dropping of proceedings. "Our view is that the new administration should have acted much more quickly to discontinue these proceedings," he said. Mr James was granted legal aid to fight his case because he left Astra in 1990 without compensation for loss of office. He was removed as a director in March 1990 after he began to make public his findings that newly-acquired subsidiary companies were exporting arms to Iraq. In August 1990 the company, under its new directors, asked that it be investigated by the DTI. In February 1992 the company went into receivership. The inquiry lasted until 1994. Although the inspectors concluded in a letter to the DTI that disqualification proceedings were not justified, proceedings to disqualify him from being a director were begun and a total of 35 charges laid against him. The letter came to light in November 1997 and the trial judge asked Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, to consider the case. She decided proceedings should be discontinued.

Princess cancels official outing over late bloomer

By Guy Walters

PRINCESS MARGARET'S first public outing since her stroke was cancelled yesterday after the flower she was to name at the Chelsea Flower Show failed to bloom in time. However, the Princess decided to attend the show's opening day in a private capacity, one of her few appearances since her illness. Dressed in emerald green, she smiled and waved to onlookers. A Buckingham Palace spokesman said later: "She is making slow but steady progress. This was to have been her first official engagement, but the flower, an astroemeria, was not ready. She has been seen in public before in a private capacity — she attended the Arts reception at Windsor Castle, an informal party for people in the arts given by the Queen, a few weeks ago." The Queen and other members of the Royal Family arrived later, no doubt observing that if *Hello!* magazine had its own garden then it would look a lot like the Chelsea Flower Show. Hardy perennials of the celebrity variety, such as Jane Asher, Lionel Blair, Gloria Hunniford and the cook Anthony Worrall-Thompson, willed in the mid-day sun as the world's press photographed them praising this flower and that shrub. There were a few dazzling displays. Jeremy Irons revealed himself as a sundial expert. "It's a wonderful way of having something informative that doesn't need weeding or trimming," he said. Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport, was photographed holding the FA Cup with Michelle Lincker, wife of Gary. The Cup was festooned with the first ever Football Association rose — Pride of England. Mr Banks revealed to *The Times* that he was a keen gardener, but Parliamentary business meant that he had little time to get his fingers green. "I have a little rockery," he said, "and we



Princess Margaret: she attended the Chelsea Flower Show in a private capacity

have even have some set-aside, where seed-bearing plants provide good food for the birds of east London." Mr Banks also revealed that he would love to build a pond and said he was sure Ken Livingstone would give him some of his news. Michelle Lincker said that she was a keen gardener, "although my garden needs a bit of TLC." Does Gary ever help her? "He's not at all interested," she said. "He's a hay fever sufferer." By today, most of the celebrities should have gone to ground leaving the 10th Flower Show more accessible

for those interested in flora than television fawning. One of the highlights is Impressions of Highgrove. Designed by Michael Miller, it shows aspects of the Prince of Wales' garden at Highgrove House in Gloucestershire. The initial view is of a paved parterre, flanked by yew and bisected by a paved thyme walk. There is then a circular vegetable garden and borders of shrubs with roses behind. In the centre is a gurgling pool. The effect is so embracing that many visitors may find themselves having a natter with the foliage. Another star garden is that

of the fashion house Chanel. The house's designer, Karl Lagerfeld, has imagined what Coco Chanel's garden may have looked like — had she had one. Remarkably, the garden features camellias in bloom — their normal flowering period is in January. The plants have been grown in carefully monitored conditions in America and Britain. Rumour has it that the garden cost £1 million, which makes the camellias more expensive per day than the average Chanel model. Alan Toogood, page 26

Trainee lawyers complain of low pay and long hours

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

MANY trainee lawyers are hard-up and disillusioned and believe that they are in the wrong job, according to a survey published today. The survey of 200 trainees in solicitors' firms for *Lawyer* magazine shows that 39 per cent would like to leave the legal profession. Many students were drawn to the law by the prospect of earning a fortune, the survey found. Instead, competition for the most lucrative training contracts in commercial firms is so intense that they are most

likely to end up in small High Street practices earning a fraction of what they expected. The widespread disillusionment over pay and working conditions revealed in the survey, conducted for *Lawyer* magazine, is in stark contrast to the perceptions of students. One trainee on £10,850 a year said: "I was earning more money per hour washing dishes in a hospital kitchen than I do as a trainee." That salary is the Law Society recommended minimum wage for a trainee but

the survey found many students earning much less. Many trainees were also working up to 65 hours a week and complained that the work was boring and unfulfilling. Mary Heaney, Editor of *Lawyer*, said: "Many trainees told us they only realised they didn't want to be a lawyer when they were well into their seventh year of academic and workplace training. However, they feel unable to throw away years of training only to be left with a mountain of debt and nothing to show for it."

Labour and SNP clash over pay

By Gillian Harris, Scotland Correspondent

THE feud between Labour and the Scottish National Party escalated yesterday over a proposed two-tier system of payments for members of the Scottish parliament. At a meeting of the all-party consultative steering group looking at the workings of the Holyrood parliament, George Reid, a member of the Scottish National Party, argued that the 56 regional members of the Scottish parliament should receive lower allowances than 73 constituency MSPs because they will not incur the same level of expenses. The 13-strong steering group is expected to recom-

mend that all 129 MSPs receive a salary of £45,000, the same as Westminster MPs, plus an office allowance of about £47,000. However, the 56 regional MSPs will not represent constituencies and Mr Reid pointed out that they will not need to spend money on office support. Labour and the Liberal Democrats, who claim that the pay differential would result in two classes of MSPs, rejected the demand. Henry McLetchie, the Scottish Office minister for devolution and chairman of the steering group, dismissed the idea as "undemocratic".

Big names turn out for the man called Smith

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

CHRIS SMITH, one of the sharpest critics of the Government's "Cool Britannia" campaign, will be feted tomorrow by the biggest gathering of celebrities in the arts world since Labour came to power. David Bowie and Bryan Ferry, the fifty-somethings who have replaced Oasis on the Government's approved list of artists, will be at the champagne party at London's Tate Gallery. The entire Cabinet has been invited to join the Culture Secretary for the launch of his book, *Creative Britain*. It is the first to be written by a

servicing Cabinet Minister about his policy area for more than 30 years. Seamus Heaney, the Nobel Prize winning poet, Ted Hughes, the poet laureate, Kazuo Ishiguro, Anthony Gormley, who created the Angel of the North sculpture which towers above Newcastle, and Alan Parker, the film maker, are all invited. Tom Stoppard and Felicity Kendall are also expected. Damien Hirst, famed for pickled pigs, produced a special cover for the book. The party is being thrown by Faber and Faber in lieu of

royalties. Matthew Evans, the chairman, said: "The reason we are paying for this lavish party is because Chris Smith, as a Cabinet minister, is not allowed to have any royalties. We are using the money to give him this party instead." In his book, Mr Smith says: "We should reject the flawed phrase Cool Britannia, but recognise and assist the modern world of music, not because it might win votes or make a Government look good, but because it is vitally important for our economy and for the achievement of musical excellence."

Clinton the golfer salutes Blair as par for the course

Continued from page 1

the President and Mr Blair managed just 4½ holes. Although no formal score was kept, Mr Clinton hit a respectable three pars and two bogies. Peter York, the club general manager who walked with the two leaders, said Mr Blair was pretty good for a novice. "He hit an extremely good seven iron from 140 yards on to the second green," he said. "It was a cracking shot." Less certain was the putting. "His first putt was a little bold but once he got the pace of the greens, he was quite good." So unexpected was the game that Mr Clinton had to borrow

some clubs as he had left his own on Air Force One. With the pro-shop shut and his own clubs elsewhere, Mr York borrowed a set from his 17-year-old son, Michael, which the two men shared. He also had to bend the club rules and allow the President and Prime Minister to get away with not wearing proper golf shoes. Fortunately for Mr York, the only other witnesses were security men. Informed of the visit late on Sunday night, Mr York had been asked to a dawn breakfast of coffee and bagels at Chequers with Mr Clinton and Mr Blair. He then drove with them in the presidential

limo on the short journey to the club. "It doesn't happen every day in your life," he said. "There I was with those two fairly important guys in the back of a Lincoln Continental; it was rather nice." Asked why two busy and tired men should give up sleep to push small balls around a golf course, Mr York said: "The Chiltern hills at 6am this morning were absolutely glorious. We would have been wasting our time in bed." Mr Clinton follows in a long line of presidents, including George Bush, Gerald Ford and Dwight Eisenhower, who have been obsessed by golf.

Brighton up

263

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Meet Nig

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Teacher admits sex with boy, 15

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Meet Nigel, reluctant lunch for 30 mosquitoes



Nigel Hill, long since immune to bites, offers his hand for sacrifice, but when the tests were carried out by doctors, with a volunteer gripping the Mosquito Repeller, the insects tucked in with relish

THERE was good news and bad yesterday for holidaymakers who fear that their two weeks in the sun will, as usual, be ruined by the unwanted attentions of the mosquito. The bad news was that not only does one of the best-selling preventive devices on the market not work, it may actually attract the pest. The good news is that no matter how badly infested your hotel room is, you won't suffer anything like the number of bites endured by one researcher in pursuit of his duty.

The human guinea pig was bitten more than 60 times when he plunged his hand into a box of 30 mosquitoes for just 90 seconds. In his hand was an electronic mosquito repeller. When the test was repeated with the chemical-free repeller switched

off the volunteer received fewer bites. An official report on the device concluded that it had no effect in repelling mosquitoes and that people using it would "put their lives at risk" from malaria if they did not use other forms of protection. An advert for the repeller, which costs £7.99, first appeared in the spring 1996 Home Free mail order catalogue published by the central London firm Hawkshead Retail Ltd. Magistrates heard that around 10,000 had been sold. The advert suggested: "Keep the mosquitos at bay. Pregnant female mosquitos are the ones who sting, but they always buzz off when the male mosquitos are around."

It said the electronic Mosquito Repeller simulated the noise frequency of the male mosquito, driving away biting females within a 30-yard radius. The company has since pleaded guilty to applying a false trade description and has been committed to Crown Court for sentence after magistrates decided that their sentencing powers, including a £5,000 maximum fine, were not sufficient. Magistrates at Aldershot, Hampshire, heard the device was based on research carried out by American scientists during the Vietnam War. Trading Standards were alerted after a customer who bought two of the devices was told by health experts that they were

considered ineffective. Tests then carried out at the School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine revealed them to be completely useless. The court heard that the product was withdrawn by the company shortly after being contacted by Trading Standards. The firm, formerly known as Innovations (Mail Order) Plc, had nine previous convictions for similar offences. Phil Thomas, prosecuting for Hampshire Trading Standards, said Nancy Doughty, of Aldershot, had complained when when an anti-malarial advice leaflet in her GP's surgery for warned against the devices. She rang the School of Tropical Medicine who confirmed

the electronic repellents were ineffective. The court heard tests were carried out at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to ascertain whether the device repelled mosquitoes to a 30-yard radius. A volunteer with bare legs and arms was put in a chamber with mosquitoes in an adjacent chamber. The device was turned on and off to see if the mosquitoes were repelled and then a second test was carried out to see if they bit. The report said: "A volunteer holding the device inserted his hand in a cage in which there were 30 hungry mosquitoes. The volunteer then held his hand in the cage for 30 seconds on three occasions with the device turned on and three times with it switched off. "In this test the volunteer was bitten 64 times with the device on and 61 times off." It said the statements in the advert were inaccurate and misleading and there was no evidence female mosquitoes were repelled by the noise of male mosquitoes. Martin Davies, representing Hawkshead Retail, of central London, admitted the company had not carried out their own tests, instead relying upon assurances of the manufacturing company. Nigel Hill, who carried out the tests, said later: "We breed our own mosquitoes for these sorts of tests. It's usually me or another member of staff who puts their hand into the cage."

Helen Johnstone on how a guinea pig learnt the painful truth about insect repellent

Burglar back in jail over plot to sell painting

BY ADAM FRESCO
A CAT BURGLAR was jailed for 3½ years yesterday for his role in trying to sell a £650,000 Picasso painting stolen from a gallery in Mayfair, London. Peter Scott, 67, who has netted an estimated £40 million since the 1950s, claimed he had retired from crime ten years ago and become a tennis coach. But the temptation of one more deal — selling the painting for a cut of £75,000 — was too much for the burglar who claims to have stolen items belonging to Sophia Loren and Elizabeth Taylor. At the end of his trial at Snaresbrook Crown Court in East London, he changed his plea and admitted conspiracy to handle *Tate de Femme* after an accomplice, Ronald Spring, 70, who had already admitted the offence, gave evidence against him. Judge Andrew Brooks told both Scott and Spring, who received a two-year suspended sentence, that their crime was so "grave and serious" that only a custodial term was justified. As the judge handed out the sentence, Scott — dressed in a shirt and jacket with his trademark scarf — breathed a visible sigh of relief. He faced up to six years in jail. Judge Brooks said: "There is evidence to suggest that there is a growing and active market for stolen art... this court has a clear duty to send out a message to those who choose to carry out like offences. Within hours of the armed raid in March last year, Scott met the robber and passed the painting to Spring, who tried to sell it on to undercover officers."

Jet-set students say their art was in the right place

BY PAUL WILKINSON
ALL great artists are misunderstood at some point in their careers. Last night, 13 fine-art students were patiently trying to explain how using a £1,100 exhibition grant for a holiday in Spain was a perfectly proper endeavour. For some reason, their critics were not entirely convinced. The nine women and four men from Leeds University were thought to be working in great secrecy on a piece of performance art entitled *Going Places*. Finally, their lecturers and a sponsor were invited to one of the city's galleries for the unveiling. They were greeted by a large bowl of sangria, a stereo playing flamenco music and a drama student dressed as an air hostess carrying a megaphone. Without any explanation, they were loaded into a coach and driven to Leeds-Bradford Airport. They arrived just in time to see the students stepping off the plane from Spain. They had spent the money

partying for six days in Estepona. The exhibition, they explained, was the expression on their lecturers' faces. Matthew Dunning, 22, said: "It wasn't about enjoyment as such, it was about testing waters and reactions. It was quite hard to have the guts to do it. We had to go to the Costa Del Sol because that counted controversy." Terry Atkinson, their tutor, said: "It's definitely art, but whether it's good or bad art is another matter. It was a complete secret, quite astonishing. They were lucky, their plane could have been 12 hours late. But even an event like that is quite within the bounds of contemporary practice. We think they're a pretty clever bunch and expect them to do very well in their degree shows next year." But Myles Dutton, whose Leeds gallery Dixon Bate gave £50, said: "I've been taken for a mug. I will make every effort to recover the

money and donate it to a worthwhile charity. I can think of a lot better causes to support than to pay for a load of students to go on some holiday to Spain." The students' union, which gave £1,126, was more direct. "They're totally taking the piss" said Ruth Wilkin, the union communications officer. "This could have an effect on further requests for funds from arts societies. We have requested that they give the money back." The trip cost £1,800, with the students topping up the cost themselves. One of the students, Simon Clarke, 21, from Bromley, Kent, said: "We are going to try our best to pay the money back." "There is lots of confusion about what is leisure and what is work. To some people painting is leisure but to others it is work. What we did over there is irrelevant in some ways. But I would be lying if I said we did not have a nice time."

Teacher admits sex with boy, 15

AN ENGLISH teacher who had sex with a 15-year-old schoolboy faces a possible jail sentence after being committed for sentence to crown court. Lucy Hayward, 30, of The Abraham Darby school, Telford, Shropshire, admitted indecent assault, possession of cannabis and allowing her home in Shrewsbury to be used to smoke the drug. Andrew Burke, for the prosecution, told Shrewsbury magistrates that Hayward befriended a 15-year-old boy — not a pupil at her school. On one occasion she fondled him and told him to come round at night. They had sex then and on subsequent occasions. Police were contacted after the youngster complained to his family. He had been depressed and withdrawn since his relationship with the teacher because he had been turned by his peers. Stephen Morecroft, in mitigation, said that Hayward was a lonely woman who was "almost certain" to lose her job.

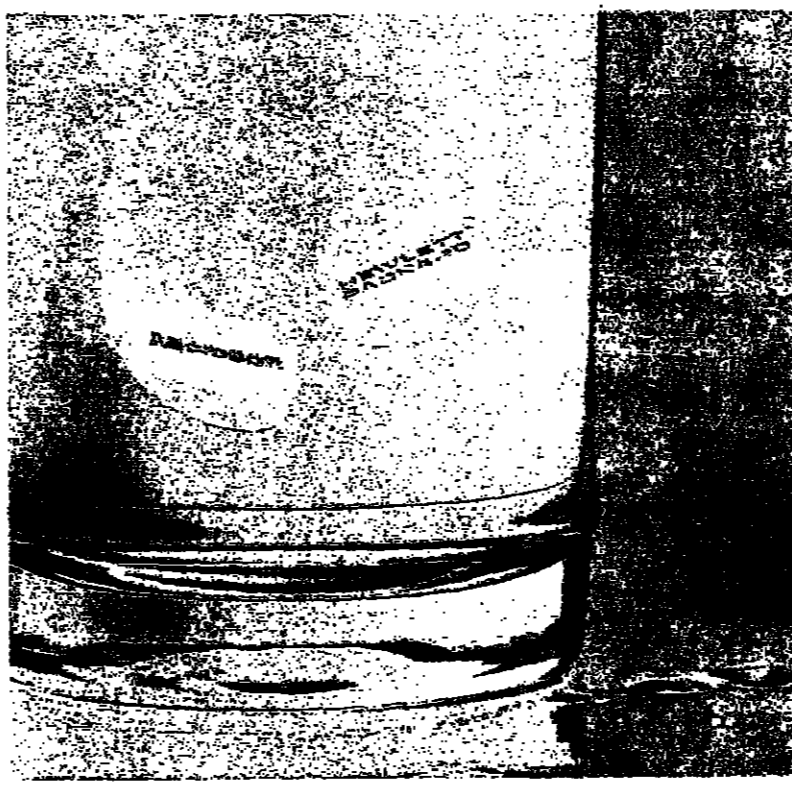
Elton John splits from manager

BY A CORRESPONDENT
SIR ELTON JOHN confirmed last night that he had parted amicably from his long-term manager John Reid. The musician said he was keen to take more control of his life in all areas and had shaken up the structure of the companies controlling his career. His spokesman said: "For some time it has been clear to Elton that a different style of management arrangement would be more appropriate." John Reid has also recognised this and has over several years developed other business interests of his own, particularly the theatre. Mr Reid, 47, who is himself a multi-millionaire, helped to transform Sir Elton from a minor piano player to an international pop celebrity with a fortune of £150 million and the admiration of Diana, Princess of Wales. Recent reports said the pair, who have had a business relationship for 23 years, have had fierce rows. But a statement released by Sir Elton's company, William A. Bong, said: "Contrary to press speculation, their business relationship has ended amicably and there are no issues between them." It was announced that management arrangements ended on Friday. However, they will continue to work together on the Disney stage production of *Elaborate Lives: The Legend Of Aida* for which Sir Elton, 51, wrote the music. Mr Reid is executive producer.



John Reid: helped to turn Sir Elton into a celebrity

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Tory pledge on extra police patrols 'has been broken'

By Stewart Tandler
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S toughest streets are severely under-patrolled each night because ministers and chief constables have reneged on promises to recruit thousands of extra officers, it was claimed yesterday. Three years after John Major pledged cash for another 5,000 officers, many forces have spent the money on equipment or other demands.

According to the Police Federation, which represents 120,000 junior officers, manpower is now so stretched that patrols in the roughest areas of Leeds, Manchester and London are now down to two or three officers at each station.

Late-night shifts in the stations were far below the normal levels of a dozen

officers needed for street patrols. There was also insufficient backing for the officers if there was danger.

The issue of manpower will be raised with Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, when he faces the federation's annual conference in Bournemouth tomorrow. Fred Broughton, the federation's chairman, said yesterday that although the new Government accepted the Conservatives' budget plans there had been no attempt to make sure the cash was spent on extra recruits.

Mr Broughton said the extra officers promised were to be supplied over three years, with 1,000 in the first year and 2,000 in each of the next two years. But in the first year only 414 officers were appointed. In the first six months of the last financial year the number of constables in England and Wales actually fell by 91. He said the Home

Secretary had also redesignated the cash for other objectives.

Mr Broughton said that Michael Howard, the last Tory Home Secretary, and David Mauden, the Tory Police Minister, had campaigned to make sure that chief constables did not spend the cash on other needs.

But Mr Major's promise had not been fulfilled although the public constantly expressed its desire for more bobbies on the beat. In London the number of officers had fallen by 1,000 and many of the other 42 forces in England and Wales had seen similar drops. Those forces that had spent the money on more officers were masking the deficiencies.

Mr Straw will also face criticism over the Government's plans to change the rules on dealing with police discipline by reducing the burden of

proof to the level used in civil courts. The federation's leadership is trying to take some of the heat out of the Home Secretary's appearance by putting forward a critical motion for debate by the 1,500 delegates today.

Home Office sources said last night that the new Government had never made any promises on figures, because of the difficulty of delivering. The Tories were wrong to make promises because they had also brought in new legislation allowing chief constables to decide how to spend the cash. The way chief constables spent their cash was up to the forces. The money had not been ring-fenced. The Association of Chief Police Officers said that the cash was only for one year and would not support the extra officers throughout their career. There were other areas where cash was badly needed.

Straw fights to keep police work secret

By Valerie Elliott
WHITEHALL EDITOR

JACK STRAW is fighting to ensure that police intelligence work is not jeopardised by the freedom of information laws.

The Home Secretary has told Cabinet colleagues that the scope for disclosing information about police activity must be tightly defined. Mr Straw is convinced that the flow of vital intelligence from overseas police forces might dry up if there was a possibility that the information could be handed to the public. He is also concerned that the information might help criminals. No agreement has been

MURDER HUNT 'CHAOS'

Police involved in the hunt for the killers of black teenager Stephen Lawrence in 1993 could not properly operate a computer system that held vital facts about the murder (writes Adam Fresco). Detective Inspector Benjamin Bullock told the official inquiry in London yesterday the first stage of the murder hunt was "chaotic". A French witness's statement was not translated for a week and an informant who named suspects the day after the murder was ignored by Mr Bullock because he "was up to his eyeballs in other things".

reached among Ministers on how to release information about police work. The Cabinet freedom of information sub-committee, chaired by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine

of Lairg QC, is to discuss the problem on Thursday.

The White Paper proposed restricting disclosure of police information to "administrative functions" but senior officers are concerned that the definition is too general. John Abbott, director-general of the National Criminal Intelligence Service, which collates information on drug barons, illicit immigration, money-launderers and paedophiles, believes the organisation - like security services - should be excluded. He said last night: "The work of NCIS is extremely sensitive. Top-level criminals will exploit any opportunity to find out more about the operational and analytical activities."

A submission has also been made by the Association of Chief Police Officers. In a letter, David Phillips, chair-

man of the chief constables' crime committee, warns that "administrative material" might "have an intelligence value to those who threaten public peace".

Mr Phillips was also extremely anxious about the effect on informants helping police. He said that informants passing confidential information "must be able to anticipate anonymity lest in the future no informants would be forthcoming".

However, Maurice Frankel, the director of the Campaign for the Freedom of Information, said last night that "no other legislation in the world" excluded law enforcement.



Francois Pinault, the billionaire new proprietor of Christie's International

French wood chopper carves into Christie's

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

FRANCOIS PINAULT, the new proprietor of Christie's International, is the Frenchman's most Frenchmen would like to be art connoisseur, wine expert and self-made billionaire who started off chopping wood in the Breton forests.

M Pinault left school at 16 to work for his father, a forester with his own plank-cutting business in Brittany. At the age of 26 he made his first business deal as a timber merchant, before going on to make his fortune, first in the paper industry and then by buying

ing them around. M Pinault's assets include such diverse properties as the great Chateau Latour wine label, Le Vail ski resort in Colorado and Samsonite, the luggage-maker.

The French business magazines *Capital* and *Challenges* ranked him ninth in the list of France's richest 500 people, with a fortune of around £1.3 billion. M Pinault is also a close friend of Jacques Chirac.

A long-standing client of Christie's, M Pinault is an avid art collector who has built up one of the best collections of modern and contemporary art in the world, including works by

Picasso, Miró, Rothko, Pollock, Lichtenstein, Warhol, Rauschenberg and Henry Moore.

M Pinault is a tightly secretive art connoisseur and drives a notoriously hard bargain. "Pinault the collector has not forgotten that he began as a timber merchant. The billionaire retains the reflexes of a man who started out without a penny." *Le Nouvel Observateur* magazine said this week, adding: "This investment... is more about a passionate art collector than a businessman; more about a man who invested his fortune in art, than one who had the art to make a fortune."



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	£2,000	17.9%	£74.53	£2,709.36
LLOYDS	£1,000	16.9%	£38.08	£1,372.16
	£2,000	16.9%	£76.16	£2,744.32
ABBAY NATIONAL	£1,000	16.7%	£38.01	£1,370.54
	£2,000	16.7%	£76.02	£2,741.08

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Nurse cleared of killing her baby daughter

A DEVOTED mother serving an 18-month suspended sentence for killing her severely handicapped baby daughter had her conviction quashed yesterday, Julie Watts, 32, sobbed violently and threw herself in the arms of her solicitor as three judges in the Court of Appeal cleared her of the manslaughter of 14-month-old Abigail. It was the end of a three-year ordeal.

The former psychiatric nurse had been found guilty of killing her daughter by pulling out a tracheotomy tube inserted in her throat to help her to breathe as she watched over her in hospital in July 1995.

But Lord Justice Swinton Thomas ruled that the judge at her trial at Manchester Crown Court had given inadequate directions to the jury on manslaughter during his summing up last September. As the judgment was delivered Mrs Watts cried out: "You don't know what you have done to me, you really don't" — a reference to her interrogations by the police and prosecution.

A devoted mother is exonerated, reports Michael Horsnell

ure leading to cardiac arrest. Mr Justice Sachs explained to Mrs Watts, from Greater Manchester, that the manslaughter verdict meant that the jury thought she intended to harm her daughter but not to kill her. He told her: "You have been a caring and concerned mother. There has been not one word of criticism of your care." But he added that no civilised society could condone what she had allegedly done.

But Mrs Watts, who has a son of nine and an 18-month-old daughter, continued to deny killing Abigail and launched an appeal to clear her name. Yesterday Lord Justice Swinton Thomas, sitting with Mr Justice Connell and Mr Justice Poole, said the conviction was unsafe on the grounds that the trial judge did not give the direction he should have done on the issue of manslaughter.

accompanied by her husband, Andrew, said: "I am relieved at the outcome but it's been the most horrendous time of my life. No one can imagine what we have been through and how much our lives have been destroyed."

She declined to speculate how Abigail — who was born with a rare skull deformity called clover-leaf syndrome, which left her brain-damaged, deformed, partially sighted, deaf, unable to breathe or feed without help, and unable even to close her eyes — had died.

The jury in the trial cleared her of murder but found her guilty of manslaughter, for which Mr Justice Sachs gave her 18 months in prison suspended for two years. The jury was told that throughout Abigail's short life, her mother was constantly at her side, in and out of hospital — on at least one occasion saving her life.

Shortly before Abigail was to have returned home after a two-night stay in July 1995, staff at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital heard Mrs Watts crying for help. The nurses found that the tracheotomy tube had been pulled out, the tapes securing it having been untied. The child suffered respiratory fail-



Julie Watts: "The most horrendous time of my life"

Cult told me to steal, says Picasso trial man

A MAN accused of stealing a Picasso painting told the Old Bailey yesterday that he turned to robbery to make a "spiritual statement" on behalf of starving children.

Russell Grant-McVicar, 33, who is defending himself, said he had been instructed by members of "the most powerful cult group on the planet — I was told if I did not make a spiritual statement and undergo their strict instructions, that not only my life, but my child's life would be taken".

Mr Grant-McVicar, son of the reformed criminal John McVicar, said told the jury that he robbed "not to get rich but under direction that I make a spiritual statement — they said I should make spiritual statements for the next ten years, not only robbing but standing up and arguing that in this day and age, there is no way that people should be expected to starve".

He denies 16 charges alleging robbery, attempted robbery, escape and firearms offences. The prosecution alleges he carried out a total of eight robberies and



Grant-McVicar, lost £10,000 gambling

cross-examination that after netting £50,000, Mr Grant-McVicar had lost £10,000 gambling. He asked the defendant: "What about the starving children?"

Mr Grant-McVicar said: "That has nothing to do with it. I was told I would make a spiritual statement. It had nothing to do with if I went to the bookies." He said he was told to commit robbery so long as he did not do it for savings or to get rich.

Mr Hines suggested it was a very unconventional way of helping starving children. Mr Grant-McVicar said he was not told to get money to direct it to some charitable organisation in "a conventional way — you do not understand the complexity of quantum fields and the effects. You only understand the surface value."

Mr Hines asked him to explain "the complex way that losing £10,000 helps starving children". Mr Grant-McVicar said it did not matter if he gambled so long as he directed his energies "into the natural life." The trial continues.

one attempted robbery — netting more than £100,000 — between June 1993 and May 1997. He allegedly went to a London gallery by taxi, and ordered it to wait as he was collecting a painting. The gallery was housing the Picasso *Tête de Femme*, worth £595,000.

Mr Grant-McVicar said he was introduced to the cult — which he refused to name — when he had started to feel pressures across his heart and his head seven years ago, James Hines, for the prosecution, said during



Abigail, born with rare clover-leaf syndrome

Police investigate nanny's job record

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

OFFICERS investigating the death in London of a six-month-old baby in the care of nanny Louise Sullivan have arrived in Sydney to interview her former employers.

Three senior Scotland Yard officers plan to talk to up to 18 people about Miss Sullivan, 26, an Australian, who has been charged with causing grievous bodily harm to Caroline Jongen. Caroline died five days after being taken to Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children on April 17.

Miss Sullivan, who will next appear in court in June and

could face a more serious charge, was working for Marcel and Muriel Jongen, of Cricklewood, North London, when the baby was taken to hospital. Mr Jongen, a director of an offshore investment company, and his wife were at their daughter's bedside when she died.

Detective Chief Superintendent David Cox, who is in Australia, said: "The purpose of this visit is to gather all the available information to enable the court at the end of the day to properly assess the case."

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Clamps 'were left in girl seven years ago'

Teenager who died in Corfu had bowel surgery aged 12, report
Russell Jenkins and John Carr

A TEENAGER who died suddenly on holiday in Corfu may have been carrying surgical gauzes and plastic clamps in her stomach after an operation seven years ago.

The family of Karen Murray, 19, a trainee hotel manager from Southport, Merseyside, revealed that she had undergone surgery for a rare bowel disease when she was 12.

As the authorities in Corfu were making preparations to repatriate the body, The Royal Liverpool Children's NHS Trust confirmed that she had been a patient at Alder Hey Children's Hospital eight years ago. Last night the trust launched an inquiry.

boyfriend's pleas to consult a doctor. After four days of acute sickness, a doctor called an ambulance but she died at around 8pm before she arrived at the hospital. Dr Stefanos Gasteratos, a specialist in anatomy and pathology on the island, discovered the surgical equipment embedded in her gut when he carried out a post mortem examination at the weekend.

Ms Murray's brother, Paul Walker, wept last night as he spoke of his sister at a press conference in Birkdale, Merseyside. Speaking through welling tears, he said: "Myself and my family are still officially unaware of any post mortem examination being carried out, or of any findings. I can confirm that Karen did undergo surgery at Alder

Hey hospital seven years ago. We have nothing to add until we are aware of the post mortem examination's findings which will be carried out by the British medical team."

Mr Walker tried to continue but broke down. "She is my sister ... no other words to explain it," he said before standing up and leaving.

Christopher Sumner, the family's solicitor, complained that the family had been kept in the dark. He said there had been no official notification of the post mortem examination carried out on Corfu, and, by early afternoon, the coroner's office had no record of her death.

Dr Gasteratos said that the cause of death was due to intestinal obstruction caused by the surgical materials ap-

parently left in her abdomen after an operation "some time ago." He denied earlier reports that a scalpel was found in the body.

Ms Murray's mother, Mary Walker, was being comforted yesterday by her partner, Norman Stead, and her son at their house in Birkdale.

Yesterday afternoon a spokesman at the hospital said an inquiry had been launched: "The trust can confirm that a child of the name Karen Murray was a patient of this hospital eight years ago. However, the hospital has not been contacted by any family of any patient of that name. Therefore it would be inappropriate to release any clinical information."

"Of course, should the trust be contacted officially for information, we would fully assist."

The Southport coroner is likely to order a second post mortem examination when the body arrives in England tomorrow or on Thursday.



Ms Murray had complained of stomach pains

Forgotten peril grows inside

IN THE past, surgical equipment, usually clamps or arterial forceps, but occasionally scissors, were so frequently left behind in the abdomen chest or pelvis of a patient that a strict routine has been introduced to see that all had been safely returned to the theatre sister's care before the end of the operation.

Swabs and gauze are even more easily abandoned than instruments in human cavities. The material picks up the blood so that it becomes invisible as it blends with the generally crimson background. The material, too, is soft so the surgeon may not feel it before he closes the abdomen. Plastic clips are often applied to the gauze, so they may be easily felt and seen and, if need be, later identified on X-rays photographs. Likewise, radiopaque strands are infiltrated into the gauze.

As the operation continues, bloody swabs are collected together into an ever increasing number of small, easily counted heaps and checked. At the end of the operation, the surgeon formally asked the theatre sisters if the swabs

MEDICAL BRIEFING

and instruments are all present. The patient isn't closed until the sister is happy that nothing has been left behind.

Both the gauze and instruments are sterile at the start of the operation and so may remain uninfected for some time, but so long as they are present they remain a possible focus for infection.

Initial reports from Corfu suggested that the gauze had actually been left inside the stomach or intestines. As gauze is a fibre, it can act like swallowed hair and form a bezoar, a concretion of such substances as hair, fibre, and dried fruit which forms a ball, rather in the same way as debris can collect around hair in a waste pipe. A bezoar can stay within the system for years as it slowly grows, until it causes obstruction. Bezoars as large as 6lbs have been removed.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Schiffer ad prompts viewer complaints

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

AN ADVERTISEMENT in which Claudia Schiffer does a striptease is to be investigated by the Independent Television Commission after complaints from viewers.

The commission has received more than 50 letters and calls about the commercial for Citroën's Xsara model and will now decide whether it should no longer be shown. Most of the complainants considered the advertisement to be degrading to women; 15 were angry at it being shown before the 9pm watershed.

In the advertisement the German model walks towards the car removing her dress and climbs aboard in her underwear, which she apparently sheds once inside - seemingly to convey that what she feels truly comfortable in is the coupe.

Citroën defended the advertisement as "tongue in cheek". A spokesman said: "I guess 50 people did not get the joke. But we researched the ad beforehand to make sure the point was understood. Claudia is a strong, successful woman who is big in the fashion world so she is saying, with some humour, that the Xsara is fashionable. You never see Claudia naked, just a glimpse of her in underwear."

Soldiers put hope in evidence of killer

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

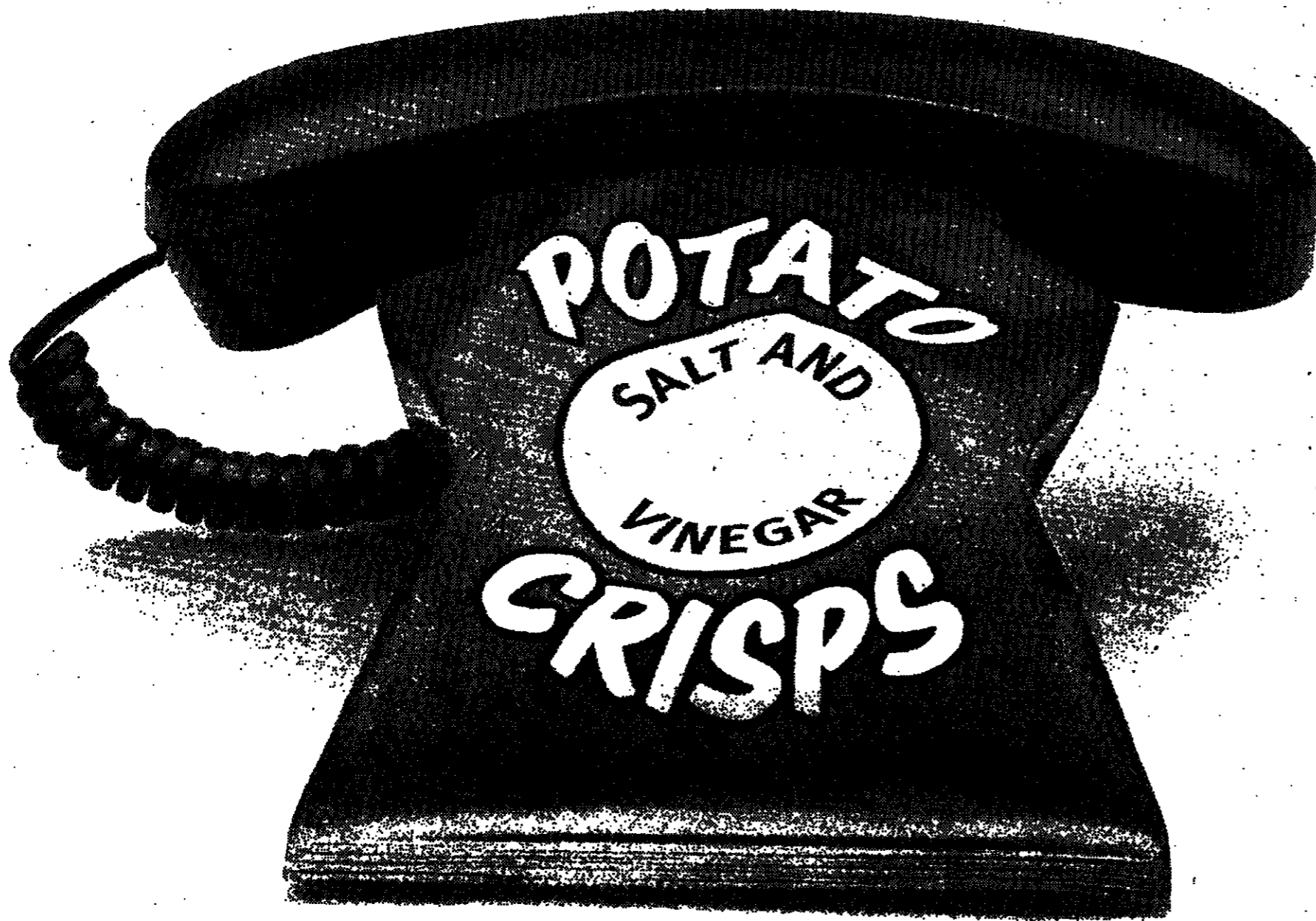
TWO of the three British soldiers jailed for life in Cyprus for the horrific killing of a young Danish woman nearly four years ago hope they will soon be freed. They are relying on fresh evidence collected by two London detectives to overturn their manslaughter convictions or to reduce their sentences.

The private detectives claim to have discovered which of the three soldiers struck the fatal blows that killed Louise Jensen. It was a question never answered during the trial which found all three guilty of abduction and manslaughter after they chose not to testify against each other.

Justin Fowler, Allan Ford and Geoffrey Pernel, all former members of The Royal Green Jackets, are serving life sentences without remission for the attack. Their appeal begins on Thursday, when the court will consider a prosecution application to allow one of the detectives, Michael Flack, to testify. He has already sent details to Cyprus of an alleged confession he claims to have secured from Fowler in jail.

Mr Flack believes that while Ford and Pernel are guilty of abduction, they had no intention of killing Ms Jensen.

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Radon blamed for 1 in 20 lung cancer deaths

ONE in 20 deaths from lung cancer in England is caused by radon in the home, scientists have discovered. About 1,800 people die each year as a result of breathing in concentrations of the radioactive gas in their house, according to the first evidence of the scale of the risk, published today in the *British Journal of Cancer*.

The research, led by Sarah Darby, a principal scientist at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's epidemiology unit at Oxford, found a direct link between levels of the gas and the incidence of the disease. The problem was exacerbated by smoking but that did not affect the overall proportion of those who became ill from breathing in the gas.

She said that studies of uranium miners in Czechoslovakia and East Germany had found they stood a twentyfold greater risk of developing lung cancer, clear evidence of a link between the disease and the gas. Her research was to find out if the link was still relevant when the gas, which does not smell, was in the much lower levels found in the home.

The study was carried out at five centres in Devon and Cornwall, where radon levels

Hidden gas in homes is causing about 1,800 deaths a year, writes Ian Murray

are among the highest in the country. Whereas the average amount of the gas in England is 20 becquerels (units of radiation) per cubic metre, the level is 40 becquerels in Devon and 200 in Cornwall. "There is a clear tendency for the risk of lung cancer to increase by 12 per cent for each increase of 100 becquerels," Professor Darby said.

Uranium miners and workers in the nuclear industry are regularly monitored to ensure that they are not exposed to more than 200 becquerels. "Some individuals are certainly living with doses that would be unacceptable and illegal if they were workers in the nuclear industry," she said. The new research was based

on studying the background of 982 people aged under 75 with lung cancer who had lived in Devon or Cornwall for at least 30 years. Another 3,185 people who had not got the disease were also monitored. The researchers traced the 13,000 homes where these people had lived over the period and placed radon detectors in the living room and bedroom for six months. They were then able to identify the level of radon that each person had been exposed to over the 30-year period and from that work out the relative risks of developing the disease.

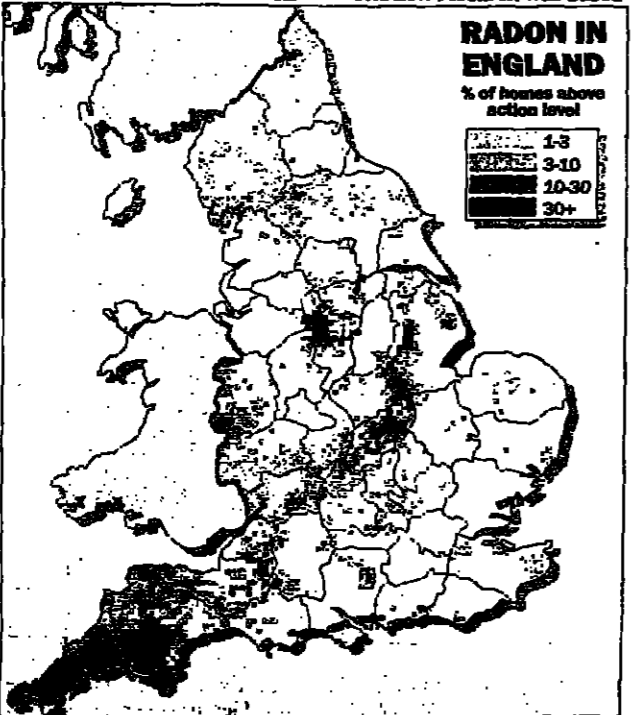
"There are about 37,000 deaths from lung cancer in Britain and radon is responsible for around 1,800 of them," said Sir Richard Doll, who established the link between smoking and cancer 30 years ago and who is now consultant to the cancer fund's clinical trial service unit at Oxford. "In the absence of smoking, there would still be 4,000 lung cancer deaths a year, of which 200 would be due to radon."

Sir Richard said someone who smoked 15 cigarettes a day had up to a 7 per cent risk of dying from the disease. If the radon factor was added to that, the risk would be about 9 per cent.

Gerry Kendall, head of the population exposures department of the National Radiological Protection Board, said radon levels in about 100,000 homes in England were probably above the action level. Apart from the South West, there were smaller concentrations in Somerset, Derbyshire, Northamptonshire, Cumbria and the North East.

He said it was possible to fit a "radon sump" into a house which would bring down radon concentrations to safe levels. The device, which costs between £300 and £1,000, uses a small pump to draw out air from below the flooring, preventing a build-up of the gas.

Copies of a help pack produced by the board can be obtained by telephoning 0800 614520. The board lends householders radon detectors for a small charge.



The sun hats modelled by pupils Andrew Wenborn and Francesca Hoare, both 11



In memory: John Thorpe with his family

School kepi is fitting memorial

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A RED sun hat like the French Foreign Legion's kepi has been made part of a school's compulsory uniform, in memory of a pupil's father who died from skin cancer.

The Cancer Research Campaign supplied the £2.65 hats to the 400 children at Jesse Gray Primary School in West Bridgford, Nottingham.

John Thorpe, 32, died last summer. His widow, Jill, was determined that his death would not be in vain and began a campaign for sun hats to be part of the summer uniform at the school where her son, James, 6, is a pupil.

Mrs Thorpe, who also has a daughter, Sarah, 4, said: "I wanted to do something simple and effective. Nothing can make up for the fact that John has gone but this is something he would have liked. He was so good with children."

The charity heard about her plan and decided to provide the hats as part of a nation-

wide drive to draw attention to the fact that most of the cell damage that causes skin cancer occurs before the age of 18.

Jean King, the CRC's director of education, said: "This is a superbly effective and practical way to implement safe-sun guidelines. We always recommend everyone wears factor 15. We also stress the greater importance of making the most of the shade and wearing protective clothing."

"It's vital that children are protected. Not only is young skin more delicate but children spend about three times longer outside than adults do. We urge other schools to take note and follow this example so that skin cancer becomes a thing of the past rather than a problem of the future."

At least 40,000 cases of skin cancer are reported in Britain annually. The most serious form, malignant melanoma, claims more than 1,500 lives a year.

New drug treatment shrinks tumours

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A NEW treatment for breast cancer has shown promise in its first large-scale human trial.

Doctors are excited by the results because they show that drugs targeted at the defective genes that make the cancers grow should be effective. That opens up a new line of attack on cancer.

So far the outcome of the treatments, given to women with advanced breast cancer that has spread to the rest of their bodies, is modest — a three-month increase in lifespan. But given the late time of treatment, researchers say that is very significant. The drug, Herceptin, is

designed to treat women who have multiple copies of a gene called HER-2 — up to 30 per cent of all breast cancer patients, according to the American doctors involved. The gene produces a protein on the surface of cells which acts as a receptor for growth-stimulating hormones. Women with many copies have many receptors and their breast cells are more inclined to grow uncontrollably.

Herceptin, developed by the biotech company Genentech and used with other drugs, is designed to block the extra receptors. In a trial of 691 women, reported on Sunday at the American Society of Clinical Oncology in Los Angeles, investigators found that tu-

mours shrank by at least 50 per cent in at least half those given Herceptin, compared with one third on chemotherapy.

Researchers predict the results could be much more impressive when the drug is given at earlier stages of the disease.

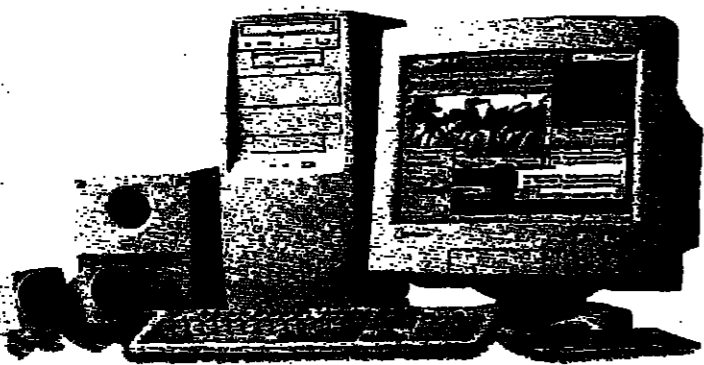
An experimental treatment that eliminated cancer in mice could be given to human patients by the end of this year. Judah Folkman of the Children's Hospital in Boston expects to treat about 30 terminally ill patients with the drugs angiostatin and endostatin. Full-scale clinical trials are still 12 to 18 months away. The Nobel Prize winner James Watson was quoted recently as saying that they could cure cancer within two years but has since denied saying it.

Keeping a watch on sun risk

A wristwatch invented by a Cambridge University biologist has built-in sensors to monitor ultraviolet light. A bleeper alerts the wearer when the skin has absorbed too much. The watch can be set for six different skin types. Dr Geoff Holmes, 48, had the idea when he needed a low-cost machine to measure UV light absorbed by plants. The new watch has been patented but has not yet gone into production.

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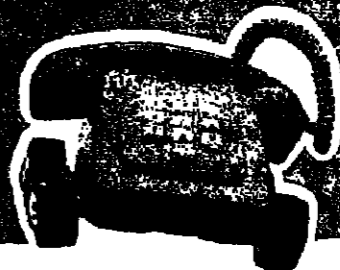
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MILE YOU AND ORDE

Lake District spearheads new threat to tax holiday homes

A LAKELAND council is demanding the right to tax second-home owners in an attempt to repel an invasion that they claim is pricing locals out of the market.

Cash-rich outsiders looking for a long-term investment and somewhere to spend a few weeks in the summer are pushing up prices and killing off communities, it was claimed yesterday.

Now Lakeland District Council wants the Government to allow it to impose a tax on second homes as well as scrap the 50 per cent reduction in council tax.

In some parts of the Lake District, as many as 40 per cent of homes are empty for all but a few weeks of the year. Out of season, once-bustling villages are reduced to a rump of locals and a few

Outsiders accused of pushing up prices and ruining communities, reports Simon de Bruxelles

retired newcomers whose numbers are too small to support local shops.

The tax on second homes was proposed by Stan Collins, a district councillor fed up with seeing cottages once inhabited by agricultural workers sold at prices way beyond the means of their descendants. In South Lakeland's area, which includes Windermere and Grassmere, 4,500 of the 45,000 houses are either second homes or holiday lets.

Mr Collins said yesterday: "Of the 130 houses in Skelwith Bridge, for example, nearly half are second homes which might only be occupied for a few weeks a

year. In B and E, the lower council tax band which would include the smaller cottages, there is just one property paying the full rate. Everywhere else is a second home. One second home near me didn't even receive a visit for 2½ years, while at the same time I had local people knocking at the door saying there are six of us in a tiny flat and we can't find anywhere else to live. Second homes destroy our communities by preventing young people from setting up homes where they were married."

The council is hoping to push a Private Bill through the House of Commons that

would allow it to raise money for local housing projects through the tax on second homes. The amount of tax paid by the owner would depend on the availability of property in the area.

Nationally only about 2 per cent of households have second homes but there are enough to have a dramatic impact on the property market. Miles Fielding, of Pearson and Pearson estate agents in Kendal, said: "A significant proportion of homes are sold to buyers from outside the area, particularly in the south. But although I can't quibble with the district council's figures of how many second

homes there are, I question how much impact the demand for them actually has on prices.

The last community to get a Private Bill to raise taxation was the Shetland Isles in the 1970s, allowing it to benefit from the North Sea oil boom. The SLDC is already lobbying ministers to give it the same discretion allowed to Welsh authorities, which can decide to charge second home owners the full council tax. The 50 per cent discount for the area's 3,500 second homes costs the authority £1.7 million in lost income a year. It also loses all the revenue from 1,000 holiday

homes that pay a business rate direct to central government.

Second-home owners are angry they are being picked on. Malcolm McMillan, 67, a retired builder from Burscough, Lancashire, says he will have to sell his restored chapel in Knock, Cumbria, if the council imposes any new taxes. He said: "We have put income into the local community, as have many other people who have holiday homes in the area. I have used local tradesmen to work on my house and put income into all the other local facilities. I do not let out the chapel as a commercial enterprise, it is purely for my friends and family."

Leading article, page 25

The corner shop campaigners who dare to say 'no'

As the 'yes' lobby fragments, the peace deal's opponents are united by their defiance, reports Martin Fletcher

THE "no" campaign whose stance against the peace accord is defying world opinion, three governments and almost every political party in the British Isles is run from a former chemist's shop in the working-class Protestant heartland of East Belfast.

There is no sign of what the humble premises were. The plate-glass window of the "United Unionists" headquarters in Cregagh Road is covered in posters. "It's right to say 'no,'" says one. "Two members of the IRA Council in your government? Vote 'no,'" says another. A third has David Trimble as "David Trimnochio", his nose growing each time he speaks.

Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, Bob McCartney's UK Unionist Party, rebels from Mr Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party and members of the Orange Order. It has raised more than £60,000, primarily from selling 25,000 small heart-shaped Union Flag badges, but its strengths are its energy and manpower.

It staged 11 rallies last week alone. It has put up 12,000 posters around the Province and distributed 350,000 leaflets. It has hundreds of volunteers out canvassing and, claims a spokesman, "whole troops of moles in the Northern Ireland Office — people are falling over each other to

tell us things". Mr Paisley has certainly procured some embarrassing documents, including one laying out the Government's entire media strategy. The campaign has just one paid worker.

For the last four days before the referendum it is splashing out on advertisements in the *Belfast Telegraph*. Last night's depicted a lady holding her head one year after voting "yes" as she surveys "murderers on the streets, godfathers in government and gangsters acting as police".

There is little passion in the fragmented "yes" camp. The UUP's campaign has been lacklustre and half-hearted, its leadership exhausted and ill-prepared after months of intense negotiations and debilitated by defections. The nationalist SDLP and Sinn Fein have deliberately adopted low profiles for fear of further undermining Mr Trimble.

The one rally, staged by the Ulster Democratic Party, was wrecked by the hero's welcome given to the convicted loyalist killer Michael Stone.

Tony Blair, William Hague and Paddy Ashdown are all flying in this week but outsiders, even Prime Ministers, are regarded with intense distrust by headline Unionists.

The only real flair has come from a group of private individuals led by Quintin Oliver,



Not connecting: Ian Paisley, wearing the "no" campaign's lucrative Union Flag badges, and David Trimble



THE RECONSTRUCTED RUC A poster foresees more trouble for the RUC

inside volunteers are photocopying, typing press releases and answering telephones. They are fuelled by passion. "I feel it's up to every man, woman and child to do their part because I'm totally disgusted at our Government's attitude," Janet Hamilton, a housewife, says. "It's as if all these people don't count," she adds, jabbing her finger at a poster of the 299 policemen killed in the Troubles.

"They tell us we say nothing but 'no,'" Isabel McAuley, another housewife, says. "But even if you're offered poison in umpteen different ways you still say 'no'."

The campaign unites Ian

former head of the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action, that calls itself The Yes Campaign and occupies a makeshift first-floor office in central Belfast.

It has raised nearly £200,000 including £40,000 from Northern Ireland businessmen. Saatchi and Saatchi designed an advertisement for free that now features on 100 billboards, 500 buses and 5,000 posters.

The campaign has ten full-

time workers earning £250 a week and about 20 volunteers. It also has panache. Today it unfurls a 75ft banner emblazoned "yes" down the front of Belfast's Europa Hotel. Yesterday it launched a video featuring the Belfast-born actor Kenneth Branagh; it is being sent to first-time voters.

It has organised press conferences for sports stars, businessmen and those bereaved by terrorism. It has persuaded local artists to inscribe the

names of all 3,600 victims of the Troubles on perspex panels on the Ormeau bridge, and to float lines of poetry in nylon letters on the Lagan River.

Mr Oliver remains determinedly upbeat despite the gloomy polls. He insists there is "a groundswell of pragmatic, realistic Unionists who know this is an historic moment when they end their quarrel with nationalism and move to political stability. The consequences of voting 'no' are

unthinkable."

Islanders living off Co Cork yesterday cast the first votes. As many as 427 inhabitants of seven small islands went to polling stations four days early lest storms prevent referendum officials reaching them from the mainland on Friday. The ballot boxes will be closely guarded in the islands' mainland constituencies until the count begins on Saturday.

Peter Riddell, page 10

Trimble struggles to find audience for his message

DAVID TRIMBLE stood defiantly on the walls of Londonderry yesterday and proclaimed that the Union was safe.

It was an image of strength, meant not for the people of Londonderry but for Ulster Unionists watching the evening news. Mr Trimble chose to make his point on the city

walls, the site of sectarian conflict for more than 400 years. His ancestors fought in the siege of 1688 to keep James II's Catholic army out, and he was equally defiant yesterday that he would not be handing control to nationalists.

Looking back over the walls

into the nationalist Bogside area, which every year opposes the Apprentice Boys' march across the walls, Mr Trimble said: "This agreement is one in which the Irish Government, nationalists and republicans are legitimising the Union. They are saying that Londonderry and the Bogside here behind me are legitimately part of the UK and consequently the Bogside is as British as Bangor or Bournemouth."

Nationalists did not object and Unionists did not burst into rapturous applause, because no one but the media and a couple of elderly tourists was listening. Mr Trimble was running his campaign yesterday away from the crowds, avoiding a repeat of the humiliating hectoring in Lurgan on Saturday.

He was on the first of a two-

day tour of Northern Ireland with friends from the Conservative and Labour parties specially flown in from London to bolster his campaign.

Viscount Cranborne, Leader of the Opposition in the House of Lords, said that Unionists voting "yes" had taken a courageous path, above all Mr Trimble. The Belfast agreement was different from the Anglo-Irish agreement and should be supported by Unionists as it enshrined consent, he said, adding that the assurances given by Tony Blair to Mr Trimble last week "mean that it will not be possible for the Armalite to be hand-in-hand with the ballot box".

Kate Hoey, the Labour MP for Vauxhall, south London, who was born in Northern Ireland, told a small gathering of Ulster Unionist Party members the Union was safe



Off message: William Thompson, a dissident Unionist

and that they were facing the "most important week Northern Ireland has ever had".

Ms Hoey — a Protestant — said that a "no" vote would do nothing to advance the cause of Unionism. "To everyone

who votes 'no', the only people who are going to cheer are the IRA," she said. Her appeal, however, carried no weight with the "no" voters in the UUP, who attacked her for Labour's alignment with the nationalist Social Democratic

and Labour Party. William Wright, a Ballymena UUP councillor who was sporting a heart-shaped Union flag, said: "A wonderful party has been decimated by all this. We built it up piece by piece but now we are tearing the whole thing apart."

The councillor, who joined the UUP in 1956, now finds himself on opposite sides from his leader. Mr Wright received standing ovations last week at meetings where he was urging people to vote against the man he considers to be a good friend.

"There is a big groundswell of Ulster Unionists opposed to the agreement. I think he has lost the backbone of our party because it is the Ulster working class that is joining us. It would have serious repercussions for David and that makes me more sad than anything else," Mr Wright said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dentists 'refused to treat HIV man'

Two London dentists refused to treat a patient when he disclosed that he was HIV-positive, the General Dental Council was told yesterday.

The man, known as Mr A, said that he had been treated at the Camden Dental Surgery, North London, by the same dentists for three years. They had said his condition would cause no problems because all the surgery's equipment was sterilised. But in April 1997 he met Martin Gilbert, who had refused to treat him. Mr A said Stylianos Criticos, the surgery principal, had repeated what Mr Gilbert said. Both dentists deny serious professional misconduct. The hearing continues.

Car rescue

Shop workers forced open a car window at Tonbridge, Kent, to rescue a toddler who had been left alone and was suffering from the heat. Her father was arrested and released on police bail.

Train victim

A man died walking across a level crossing at Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, when he was struck by the Stansted Express on its way to London Liverpool Street. A witness said that the train had sounded its horn.

Jewellery raid

Armed raiders escaped with jewellery worth £250,000 when they struck as a shop opened. Two men made staff at Rowells in Oxford lie on the floor before making off with the jewellery, Thames Valley Police said.

Prisons move

Prison officers narrowly rejected calls to allow their union to recruit in private jails. The annual conference of the Prison Officers' Association, which is opposed to jails being private, reaffirmed existing policy by 14,832 votes to 14,066.

Tunnel of love

The former home of the royal mistress Nell Gwynn, across the road from Windsor Castle, fetched £745,000 at auction. The 1640 property, now a gift shop and tea rooms, once had a tunnel leading into the castle.

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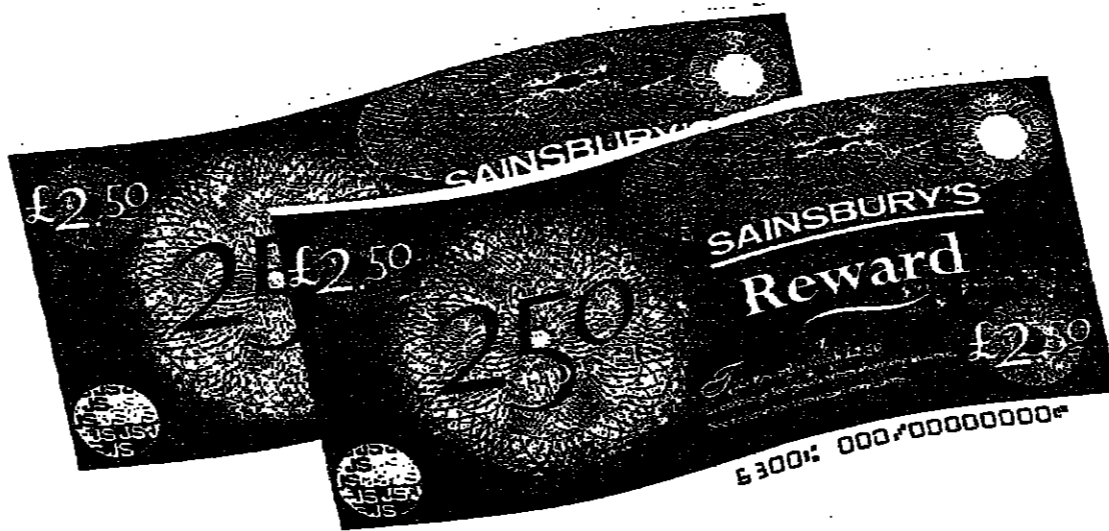
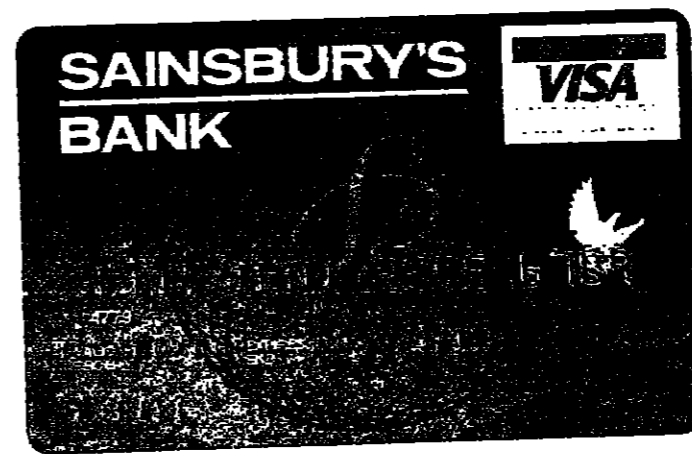
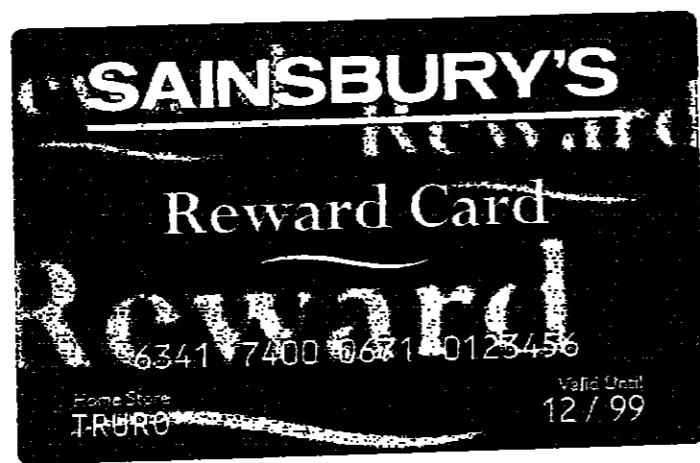
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Private inquiry 'will raise fear of a whitewash'

THE inquiry into arms sales to Sierra Leone by the British company Sandline must be held in public and chaired by a judge, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, Michael Howard, said yesterday.

Mr Howard, who was opening a debate in the Commons on allegations that Sandline breached a United Nations arms embargo with the knowledge of the Foreign Office, gave warning that the appointment of a former senior civil servant to head the investigation would lead to claims of a whitewash.

Polly Newton on a call for the Sierra Leone arms affair to be examined in public

Sir Thomas Legg, a former Permanent Secretary in the Lord Chancellor's Department, has been asked to conduct the inquiry. It will be held in private but the findings will be published.

Mr Howard said: "If the country is to be convinced that there is to be no cover-up, if the country is to see that there is to be no whitewash, we must have an inquiry that sits in public so that we can see that every avenue is thoroughly and vigorously pursued."

He claimed that the Government had set a precedent with the establishment of a public inquiry into BSE. "What is the difference between that inquiry and this? It is simply that when this Government wants an inquiry into events that took place under its predecessors, it holds a public inquiry presided over by a judge. But when it is forced to hold an inquiry into events for which it is responsible, it holds an inquiry in private behind

closed doors and presided over by a Whitehall insider who spent his whole working lifetime as a civil servant.

The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, insisted that the affair did not warrant a public inquiry. "It is already clear we are looking at a limited range of issues over a short period of time and covered in a relatively modest bundle of official papers. There isn't even a single ministerial decision on Sandline to be investigated."

Mr Cook also defended the appointment of Sir Thomas, saying: "I am perfectly confident that he is as capable of carrying out this inquiry properly, legally and with the adequate qualifications and safeguards as any High Court judge."

Sir Ray Whitney (C, Wyeombe), a former Foreign Office Minister, told the Commons it was "totally unbelievable" that senior and middle-ranking civil servants had encouraged Sandline to supply arms to Sierra Leone in breach of the UN arms embargo

without ministerial knowledge. That would have amounted to a conspiracy by officials against the Government's declared policy, he said.

Sir Ray said that civil servants had become more zealous over the years, not less, in clearing their actions with ministers.

Tony Baldry (C, Banbury), who also served in the Foreign Office, said ministers must have been passed documents outlining plans for military action to overthrow the junta in Sierra Leone. "It is totally incredible to believe that any telegram would have come from our High Commissioner in Sierra Leone which would not have been put into the ministerial box."

Diane Abbott (Lab, Hackney North and Stoke Newington), said that the Prime Minister had been wrong to dismiss the allegations as a "hoo-ha". She attacked the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, Tony Lloyd, for failing to give a satisfactory account of events surrounding the Sandline deal when he appeared before the Foreign Affairs Select Committee this month.

Ms Abbott, who is a member of the committee, said that select committees played a key role in ensuring the accountability of ministers. "It is therefore important that they come to committee and give a full account and do not mislead MPs, whether intentionally or unintentionally."

Ms Abbott said it was "not



Sir Thomas Legg, the former Permanent Secretary who will head the inquiry

good enough" that Mr Lloyd had claimed when giving evidence to the committee that all he knew about what was happening in Sierra Leone was what he read in the newspapers.

She said that she was less interested in knowing what ministers knew, and when, than in the question: "Why didn't they ask?"

Many Labour supporters

would be very disappointed that the Government did not seem to have adopted a different approach to African affairs from that of its predecessors.

Donald Anderson (Lab, Swansea East), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, said of Mr Howard: "I understand his wish to dress up this matter as if it were Arms-to-Iraq but I think the British public would not

fall for that. They realise that such an effort is well over the top."

He said that a public inquiry would be lengthy and costly, but he suggested that the Foreign Affairs Select Committee be given a role to investigate the affair.

The opposition motion calling for a public inquiry presided over by a judge was defeated by 287 votes to 128.

LORD AVEBURY, DR ABASS BUNDU, DR OMRIE GOLLEY and MR TERRENCE TERRY

On May 13 we published extracts from the letter sent to the Prime Minister by President Kabbah of Sierra Leone, which contained various defamatory allegations against, among others, Lord Avebury and Dr Abass Bundu, a former Foreign Minister of Sierra Leone who was a presidential candidate in opposition to President Kabbah. The letter had been distributed to Lobby correspon-

dents by the Downing Street Press Office. On May 14, in the House of Lords, Baroness Symons, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, dissociated the Government from these allegations.

President Kabbah accused Dr Bundu of participating in a campaign by "unpatriotic, greedy and unprincipled Sierra Leoneans" "determined to destroy [their] country" and to "denigrate highly respected British institutions". He also accused him of supporting the military regime established by the AFRC/RUF.

Dr Bundu denies that he belongs to

any such group. As he made clear in correspondence with the Prime Minister in January 1997, and elsewhere, his organisation, the Alliance for Peace and Democracy, was formed to campaign against the use of violence as an instrument of political change and continues to do so.

President Kabbah also accused Lord Avebury of participating in the same campaign and of "coniving" to "destroy Sierra Leone with international Alert", a non-governmental organisation based in London of which he was alleged to be an executive member.

Lord Avebury denies that he has

ever participated in any such campaign. He is not and has never been an executive member of International Alert nor has he ever participated in its management. He was a consultant to the organisation in 1994/5 but that was before President Kabbah took office.

President Kabbah's letter also accused Dr Golley and Mr Terry of participating in the same campaign. Dr Golley is Chairman of the National Convention for Reconstruction and Development of Sierra Leone (NCRD), an organisation that was involved in the peace process which led to the Abidjan Peace

Accord in January 1996. Dr Golley denies the allegations contained in President Kabbah's letter and states that the NCRD continues to work for peace and reconciliation in Sierra Leone.

Mr Terry, another active campaigner for peace and reconciliation in Sierra Leone, also denies any involvement in violent or unconstitutional political activity.

In publishing President Kabbah's allegations, we were not endorsing them and we are happy to put the record straight.

At present, a substantial minority of Protestants still say they are don't know, and no one yet knows whether that is a code for saying no. The referendum should still produce the desired big majority, but Mr Blair's jitteriness and repeated visits to Northern Ireland are understandable.

Key to success lies in size of Ulster majority

REFERENDUMS are supposed to end arguments, not prolong them. Rather like questions in the Commons, political leaders call referendums only when they know—or think they know—what the answer will be. But a surprising number misfire, or are inconclusive. That is why Tony Blair is deploying all his resources to secure the maximum "yes" vote in Northern Ireland on Friday.

Not only are there no rules about when referendums should be called, but there is no consensus about their meaning. What majority is overwhelming? How much does turnout matter? The two are linked. The overwhelming 72 to 28 per cent majority for an elected mayor and assembly for London in the May 7 referendum was widely seen as conclusive, even though turnout in the capital was only 34 per cent. So just a quarter of Londoners on the register voted in favour. Union leaders have understandably argued that the Government is being more demanding over union recognition in insisting upon a threshold of 40 per cent of the workforce voting in favour. A similar super-majority provision was inserted into the 1978 Scottish devolution legislation and proved to be too high a hurdle in the March 1979 referendum. Despite majority support, a turnout of 63 per cent meant that less than a third voted in favour.

There are no formal requirements for Friday's referendum. But the old parliamentary cliché about a majority of one being enough obviously does not apply in this case. (The majority of less than 1 per cent in last September's Welsh referendum has not prevented the legislation going ahead because of Labour's huge Commons majority and the weakness of the Tory opponents after their annihilation in Wales in May 1997.)

In Northern Ireland, the hurdles are less formal, but nonetheless real. The supporters of the Good Friday package want not only a big majority in favour, but they also need to demonstrate strong support from what are euphemistically described as

both "traditions". Unlike the Scottish and Welsh referendums, or the London one on May 7, counting on Saturday in Northern Ireland will be central rather than local. So it will be impossible to identify how strongly Unionist and strongly nationalist or republican areas have voted. Observers will therefore be looking at the size of the overall majority.

The latest polls all suggest that there will be a big margin in favour, with no real erosion in the past ten days. But while Catholics (two fifths of the electorate) may vote yes by a margin of nine or more to one, Protestants (three fifths) are deeply divided. Although between a third and two fifths of both faiths do not identify themselves with Unionist and nationalist parties, there is virtually no crossover of support.

So assuming that Catholics do vote overwhelmingly in

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

favour, the key figure is the level of the overall majority which indicates that more Protestants have backed the agreement than have voted against. A 70 per cent vote in favour will mean that a majority of Protestants/Unionists have definitely backed the deal. If the figure is less than 60 per cent, then a majority of Protestants have probably voted against. Such an outcome would be seen as a victory by the "no" campaign and a boost to their chances in the elections to the Northern Ireland assembly in a month. This could affect the operation of an assembly with its delicately designed checks and balances, and blocking minorities.

At present, a substantial minority of Protestants still say they are don't know, and no one yet knows whether that is a code for saying no. The referendum should still produce the desired big majority, but Mr Blair's jitteriness and repeated visits to Northern Ireland are understandable.

PETER RIDDELL

Leading article, page 25

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Princes

Judge uses action on malaria tablets

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Princess fund sues over US 'Diana doll'

Joanna Bale reports on legal action over a 15-inch figure in an outfit that the Princess wore in Angola

THE Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund yesterday sued the American makers of unauthorised "Diana dolls" and other merchandise.

The action, the fund's first legal challenge over products cashing in on the Princess, is aimed at protecting the use of her image, name and likeness. Litigation against the Franklin Mint will be conducted in California and could last up to two years.

The latest Franklin Mint Diana doll is a 15in representation of the Princess in the outfit she wore when campaigning in Angola against landmines. It looks like an upmarket version of Cindy, costs about £60 and has other outfits that will go on sale separately. The Franklin Mint has already produced an unofficial porcelain Diana doll — the first of a planned set of six — costing about £116.

Ran by Stewart and Lynda Resnick, the company has more than 50 shops across the United States and a mail-order business selling £500million a year of products such as Elvis portraits.

Star Trek chess sets and *Gone With the Wind* dolls.

Vivienne Parry, a trustee of the fund, attacked the doll as undignified. "To me a collector's doll is something that is special, an heirloom, whose clothes don't come on and off, that can be kept in a treasured place and passed on from one generation to another. I get very angry when I see some of the products that are advertised because what these companies are doing is stealing the Princess's image. They're stealing from the very people she wanted to help. I think that is unacceptable.

A statement from the fund said: "The complaint alleges that having failed to obtain consent to use Diana, Princess of Wales's intellectual property rights and identity, the Franklin Mint embarked on a campaign to profit from the Princess's death."

Anthony Julius, the fund's chairman, said: "It is our duty to protect the Princess's intellectual property rights... It is the fund's view that the proceeds of any commemorative items should go to charitable



Children from Little Heath Primary School in Hertfordshire tuck in yesterday at Althorp, where their tribute to the Princess will be incorporated into official souvenirs

causes. This is clearly not the case with products which are neither approved nor licensed by the fund and the estate."

A design approved personally by Earl Spencer was

unveiled yesterday at the school where it was devised. The earl was so impressed by Little Heath Primary School's artistic tribute to the Princess that he wanted to use it on

children's souvenirs to be sold at Althorp, the family's estate in Northamptonshire.

Days after the Princess's death, all 214 pupils at the school, in Potters Bar, Hert-

fordshire, were asked to create a card to send to her family. Months later their design was singled out by the earl, who invited them for lunch at Althorp and asked permission

to reprint their work on some of the souvenirs.

The trustees denied that they had held a "summit" to consider the fund's future after criticism from Earl Spencer. A

spokeswoman said reports that the fund was to "defy" the earl's wishes to close down were misleading.

Libby Purves, page 24

Judge urges action on malaria tablets

By JOANNA BALE

A JUDGE criticised the Government yesterday for not banning a controversial anti-malaria drug that a Harrow schoolmaster claims affected his judgment when he allegedly stole £35,000.

Judge Leonard Gerber said in his summing up of Peter Jackson's trial: "The Government has not yet seen fit to ban Lariam. It does take a bit of time for government departments to catch up with realities of life."

Mr Jackson, 36, is alleged to have taken parents' money from an account set up for a tour he organised for pupils to Tanzania in 1996. During the trial at Wood Green Crown Court, the former geography teacher, from Charnminster, Dorset, said he had suffered panic attacks and depression because of using Lariam, symptoms experienced by other travellers.

He denies theft and says that he regarded the money as his own because he was running the tour as an independent business. He has admitted spending the money on his children's school fees. The jury is due to retire today.

Owner of circus faces private prosecution

By A CORRESPONDENT

MARY CHIPPERFIELD, the circus owner, yesterday denied beating animals in her care when she was charged in a private prosecution.

Mrs Chipperfield, 60, her husband, Roger Cawley, and Mary Chipperfield Promotions Ltd face 49 charges of causing cruelty to animals at their farm in Over Wallop, Hampshire. Stephen Gills, 64, a former worker at the circus, did not enter a plea to the charges at Basingstoke Magistrates' Court.

The prosecution was brought by the charity Animal Defenders which secretly filmed about 400 hours of videotape at Mrs Chipperfield's farm and at her cousin Dickie Chipperfield's training centre in Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.

She already faces 15 charges of cruelty to animals brought by the Crown Prosecution Service after a police investigation into the videos. Mrs Chipperfield will face these charges on Thursday.

The case was adjourned for a pre-trial review on June 30 when the two cases will be merged.

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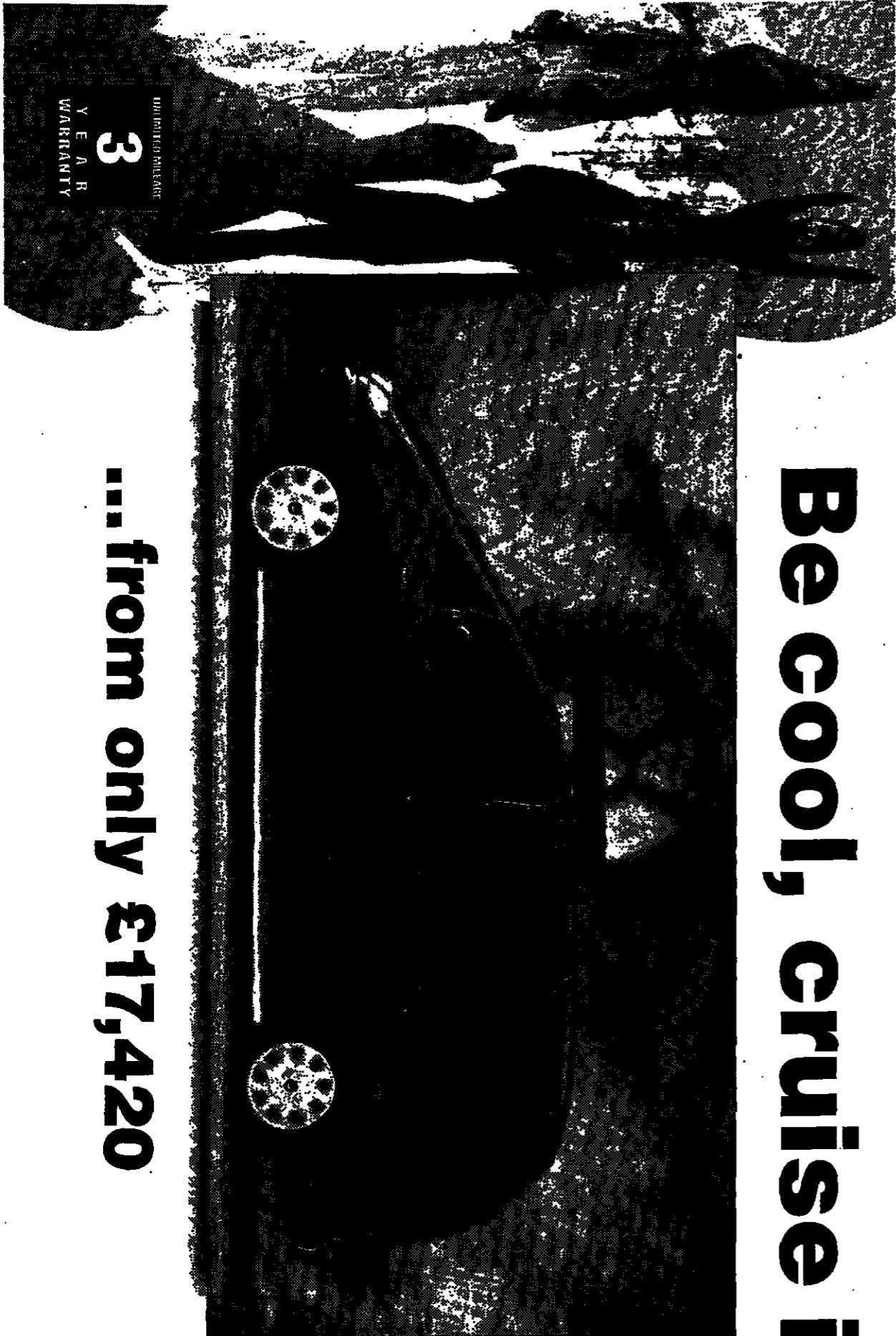
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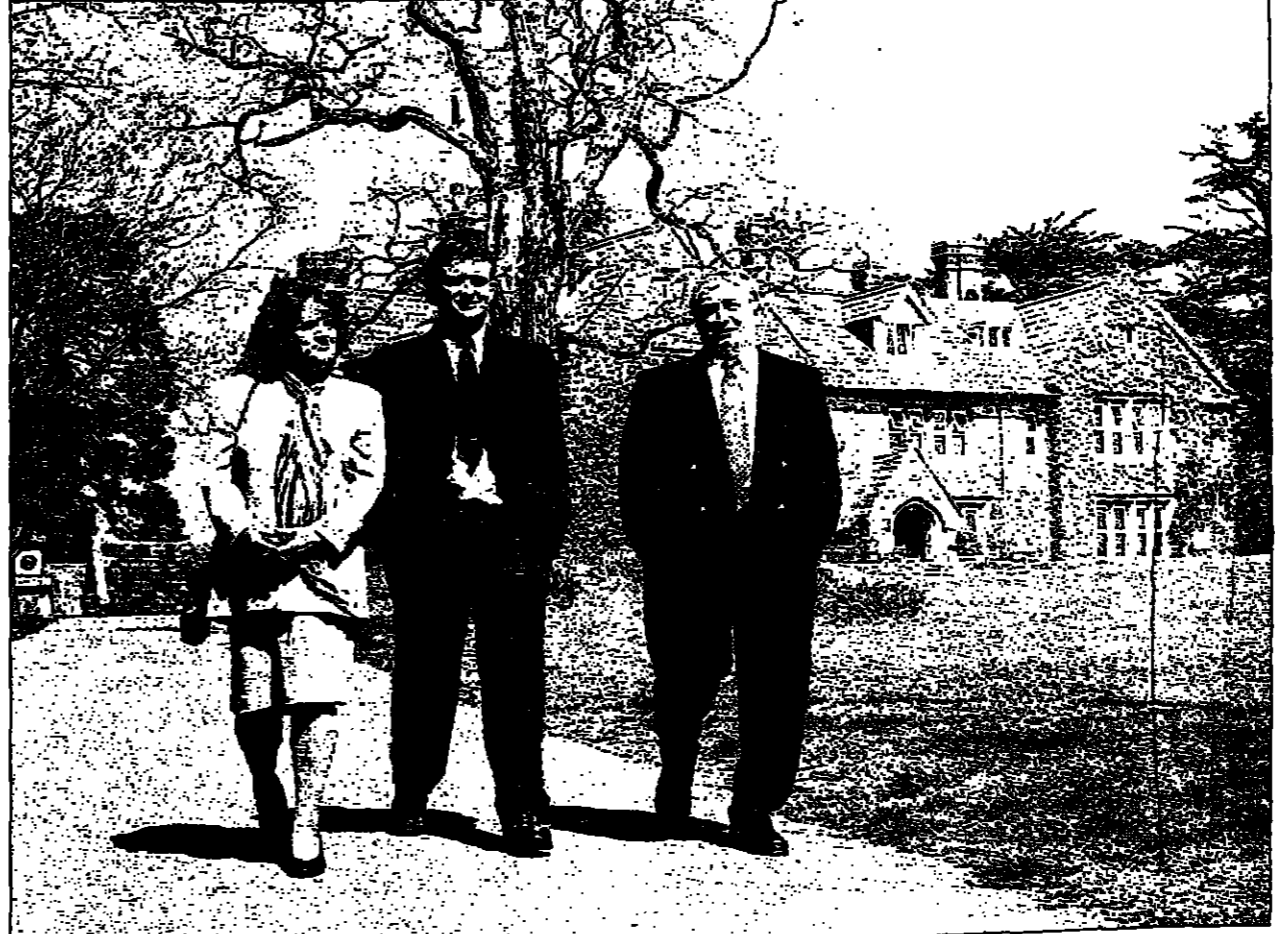
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Dafydd Lewis with his parents Ann and Gwyn at Millfield School, Somerset, where fees are over £14,000 a year

Private school rolls increase for third year

Progress of pupils 'not clear enough'

BY JOHN O'LEARY

PARENTS are yet to be convinced by the Government's efforts to raise standards in schools, according to a survey published today analysing the continuing drift towards independent education.

A five-year study for the Independent Schools Information Service (Isis) shows growing numbers of parents paying for their children's education because of dissatisfaction with the state system. Private schools' smaller class sizes were their biggest attraction.

More than a third of parents taking part in the MORI poll commissioned by Isis said they had chosen private education because standards were higher than in the state sector. Another 22 per cent said that the quality of the state alternative was the clinching factor, compared with 20 per cent five years ago.

The survey suggests that children share their parents' reservations. Six out of ten parents said their children's opinions influenced their choice of school - one in three "a great deal".

This year's independent schools census showed a 1.6 per cent rise in pupil numbers. The 7,400 additional pupils in schools subscribing to Isis represented the third successive year of growth.

In their commentary on the findings, the researchers note that discipline and curriculum

issues were markedly less influential than in 1993. But they add: "Active dissatisfaction with the state sector remains a significant factor."

A quarter of the 737 independent school parents completing questionnaires said their decision was swayed by smaller class sizes in independent schools. In spite of the Government's promise to reduce class sizes in state education, the proportion of parents dissatisfied with class size rose from 18 per cent in 1993 to 25 per cent this year.

The researchers found that a school's reputation and "orderly discipline" were more important to parents than examination results. Only one in six said he or she was concerned about a school's position in league tables.

David Woodhead, the national director of Isis, said the research showed the care parents took before choosing an

independent school. "It is clear that independent schools appeal strongly to 'first-time buyers' - those parents who were not educated privately themselves. Their clientele is also wider than is often supposed, with almost a third of families on incomes of less than £40,000 a year."

Gwyn Lewis, a Pembrokeshire farmer who sent his son Dafydd to board at Millfield School, Somerset, said the family had looked at several independent schools as well as the local comprehensive before making a choice. "I had nothing against the comprehensive, which served my daughter well, but Millfield was just made for Dafydd. It is the most expensive school in the country but I could not begrudge a penny."

Almost six out of ten entrants to senior independent schools had been through preparatory schools. But more than half of the parents responding to the survey said they had considered both state and independent education before making their choice.

The Times is the most popular daily newspaper among independent school parents, according to the survey. A third of those surveyed said they read the paper regularly, compared with 31 per cent for The Daily Telegraph, reversing the position of five years ago.

MANY schools are failing to give parents a clear picture of their children's progress, according to a study published today.

Written reports are too infrequent, often vague, sometimes illegible and tend to play down problems, conveying little to parents who cannot "read between the lines". Parents' evenings are often chaotic, badly timed and attended least by those whose children are falling furthest behind, the survey found.

Almost 200 schools and 70 parents were surveyed by academics for the charity Research and Information on State Education. Alison Clark and Sally Power, the report's authors, said a "culture of non-competitiveness" encouraged teachers to pull their punches in reports.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said informative reports were difficult to produce for large numbers of children.

A total of 296 secondary schools across England were yesterday given Sportsmark e Sportsmark Gold awards for encouraging participation in sport.

Lottery heritage awards top £1bn

BY MARK HENDERSON

AWARDS made by the Heritage Lottery Fund topped £1 billion yesterday with the announcement of 106 new grants worth £59 million.

The fund, one of the six lottery "good causes" with a brief to preserve Britain's national heritage, has made more than 1,800 awards totalling £1.01 billion to historic buildings, museums, archives, parks and industrial, maritime and transport projects.

Grants range in size from just £1,500 to St Andrew's Church in Mells, Somerset, to £25 million to the Kennet and Avon Canal in Wiltshire.

Anthea Case, director of the fund, said: "This is a significant milestone. One billion pounds is a tremendous financial landmark representing a major contribution to our heritage and the quality of British life."

The largest project to receive money yesterday was the Falmouth Maritime Initiative, with a grant of £10 million. The money will be spent on a harbour museum to house an exhibition of small boats as part of the regeneration of the fishing port's historic docks.

Other winners include Battersea Park in London, which was given £6.9 million to restore listed features. The Museum for Children in Halifax received £2.4 million to take over and preserve the town's grade II listed railway station. There was a £1.6 million grant for the Tunstall Market and Town Hall in Stoke-on-Trent, and £515,000 for the regeneration of the

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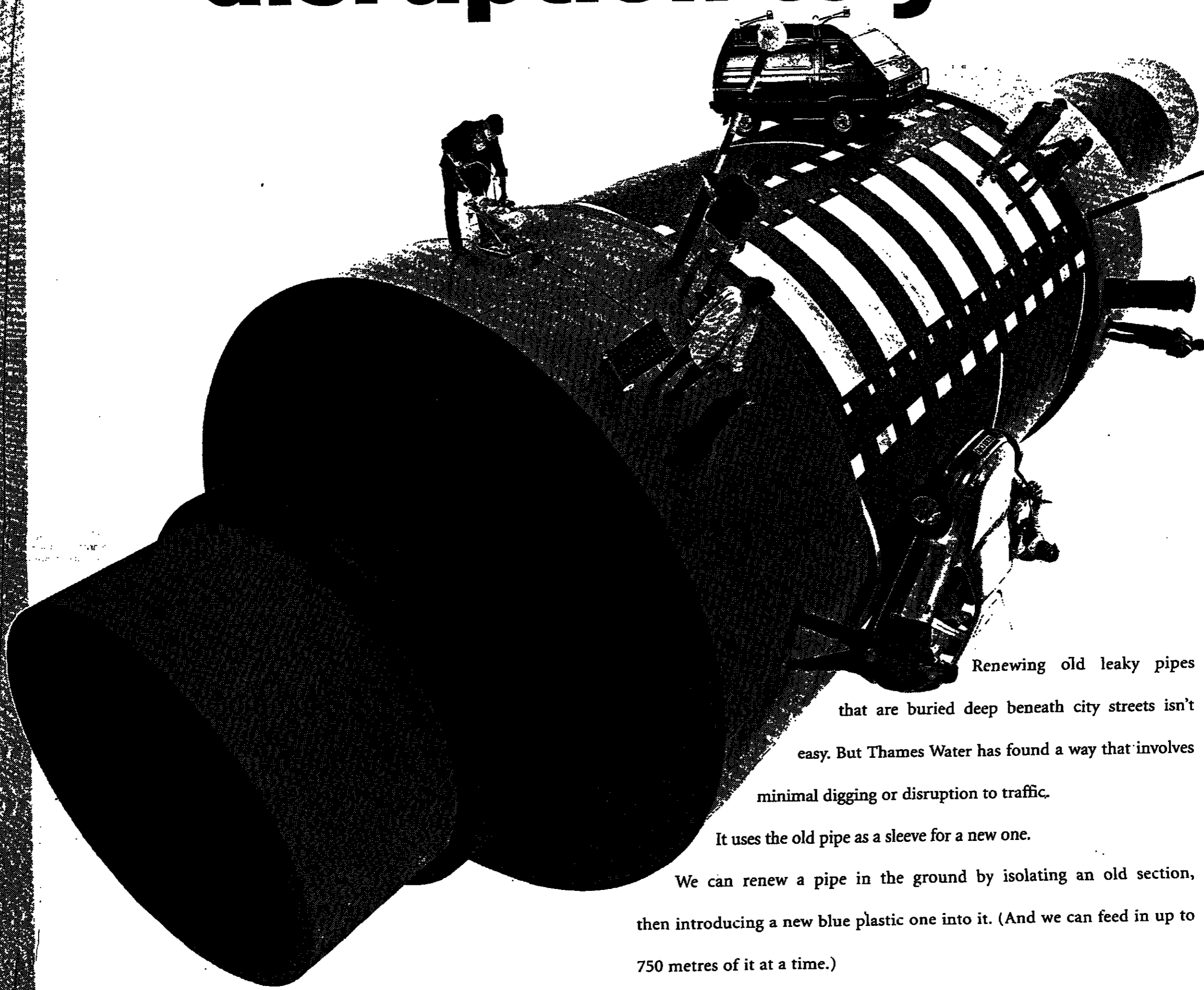
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Hospital refused help shot boy of being in the street

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Brother battles to clear Nazi collaborator's name

Straw orders investigation into postwar conviction of a Hitler propagandist, reports Audrey Magee

THE conviction of a woman jailed for treason for her role in assisting Hitler's propaganda campaign is to be reviewed after her brother claimed she was the victim of a miscarriage of justice.

Susan Hilton, an alcoholic lesbian who had once been a member of Sir Oswald Mosley's blackshirts, broadcast propaganda to Ireland from Berlin. After the Second World War she was arrested by MI5, found guilty of treason and jailed for 18 months.

Now, after the discovery of evidence showing that she was harshly treated by the Germans, her brother has written to Jack Straw asking for a Royal Pardon. Mr Straw has referred the conviction to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, which is to seek more details from Edward Sweney, Hilton's brother, before investigating. If the commission rejects the case, Mr Sweney can petition Mr Straw directly on the basis that, by constitutional convention, only the Home Secretary can ask the Queen to grant a free pardon.

The review follows research

carried out by David O'Donoghue, author of the newly-published *Hitler's Irish Voices*. Mr O'Donoghue, an Irish journalist and historian, has unearthed documents showing that MI5 agents found Hilton half-starved and suffering kidney failure in Liebenau camp, a former mental asylum near Meckenbeuren in southwest Germany. Gestapo documents uncovered in Berlin show that Hilton was *sperrdächtig*, or a suspected spy.

Mr Sweney, 85, from Oldcastle, Co Meath, said his sister, who died in Surrey in 1983, was the victim of a grave miscarriage of justice. He said: "There should be an investigation into the inhuman, degrading and cruel conduct of MI5 in their treatment of Susan, who was obviously innocent of the charge they were trying to fake by withholding vital evidence at her trial."

The Sweneys were educated in England but separated in the 1930s when he moved to Ireland and she, at the age of 21, married George Hilton, a Scottish mining engineer. She joined Mosley's British Union of Fascists and, in 1940, after the death of her son, followed her husband to Burma. But she but had only reached the coast of France when her ship,



Sweney: says he will not rest until sister cleared

the *Kemendine*, was sunk. She was taken prisoner and brought to Paris on condition that she write and broadcast for the Nazis. A year later, she moved to Berlin and began working on the radio station Reichsrundfunk Berlin with about 20 other English and Gaelic-speakers.

Mr Sweney said he was unaware his sister was working with people such as William Joyce, better known as Lord Haw Haw. "I do remember listening to a woman and there was something about the tone and the way of saying things that reminded me of Susan but of course I never knew it was her."

In 1942, she was dismissed for being drunk on air and broadcasting lewd comments about her male colleagues. By mid-1943 she was suspected of spying, possibly because she had helped Father Kenneth Monaghan, a British Army chaplain, secure the escape in

1940 of British soldiers in Paris. She tried to escape in 1944 but was imprisoned and spent the last nine months of the war in the mental asylum.

Iris Cawley, a former MI5 officer who in 1945 accompanied Hilton back to England to stand trial, described her as "a weak sort of character but with some literary ability". In a letter to Mr O'Donoghue, Mrs Cawley said that Hilton, who made sexual advances towards her, was terrified of the consequences of her actions.

Sir John Stephenson, who led the MI5 operation to round up 100 British collaborators after the war, said that the history of the operation was the only remaining part of MI5 history to be told. "It will show how extraordinarily few traitors there were out of all the British subjects in occupied Europe and in prison camps," he said.

Mr Sweney will not rest until his sister's name is cleared. "I suppose by this stage they hoped everyone was dead. Well, I'm not," he said.



Susan Hilton before the war: she later broadcast propaganda from Berlin to Ireland

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Teenager 'jumped off car park after rape'

By A CORRESPONDENT

A TEENAGE girl threw herself from a multistorey car park after being raped, a court was told yesterday.

Andrew Phipps, 29, from Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, denies raping the 16-year-old girl on November 5 last year. She was found injured at the bottom of the car park after the alleged attack.

The teenager had drunk three halves of lager during her lunch break before meeting the defendant in Aylesbury, Reading Crown Court was told. Jacqueline Matthews-Stroud, for the prosecution, said: "She wasn't used to drinking and it had an effect upon her." Mr Phipps led the girl home against her will, and tried to kiss her, she said.

Miss Matthews-Stroud said that Mr Phipps went out to buy more alcohol before returning. "He undressed and he then undressed her. He then raped her."

The jury was told that Mr Phipps put his alleged victim in a taxi but she got out and jumped from the car park.

Phipps later said they had had sex but claimed the girl had consented to it. The trial continues.

Murdered Briton wanted to go home

By PAUL WILKINSO

A BRITISH emigrant who was murdered at the wheel of his van in South Africa was planning to return because of the increasing violence, his adopted country.

Robert Taylor, a 44-year-old father of three young children, died when he was shot in the head as he waited at traffic lights on the outskirts of Durban. The killers were trying to steal his car.

Mr Taylor, an electrician, left his home town of Middlesbrough at the age of 1. He married a South African and established a business.

He was attacked on Wednesday in the township of St Wendolins two miles from his home. His van careered over an embankment and hit a house. The robbers fled but one man has been arrested and charged with murder.

His sister Norma, who lives in Middlesbrough, said: "Robert was coming back to Britain because of the crime rate. He wanted his family to be safe."

Bala Nidoo, director of police for KwaZulu/Natal, said: "It was a car-jacking and this problem is rife in South Africa. They won't think twice about shooting you."



BBC steps into
big league with
bodice ripper

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Words have the real special effect, says Sir Derek

FILM-MAKERS are failing to reach the hearts and minds of their audiences and rely too much on special effects at the expense of dialogue, Sir Derek Jacobi said yesterday. He also criticised today's generation of film actors for laziness in delivering their lines.



Films need better scripts — or bigger budgets. Darya Alberge reports from the Cannes Film Festival

Sir Derek, 59, is in Cannes for the premiere of his latest film, *Love is the Devil*, a portrait of Francis Bacon. As one of Britain's foremost actors he has excited audiences with stage performances ranging from *Macbeth* to *Cyrano de Bergerac* but his thoughts turned to the old Hollywood greats when he wanted to discuss how the importance of the spoken word has dwindled.

Although he agreed that films were "about photography", the writer's role had been undermined, he said, and poor enunciation from some actors now meant that audiences were struggling to hear what they were saying.

He noted the clarity with which Humphrey Bogart or Katherine Hepburn spoke, in contrast to today's generation: "There is a certain laziness in speech, which is considered how people talk. People do talk lazily. But when you are asking the public to listen to you — and to pay to listen to you — the least you can do is make yourself understood."

He expressed dismay that some drama schools are not teaching Shakespeare. It is through his plays that actors learn to deliver lines in a way

that makes them accessible and poetic, projecting 30 yards to the top of the theatre as well as two yards to the people in the front row — while still making the drama just as "real" for everyone.

Although that vocal technique was not required by cinema, he added, actors such as Cary Grant and Humphrey Bogart "knew how to use their voices". Unlike cinema, theatre actors cannot rely on background music to convey the emotion: actors have to "play" the emotion themselves — "not one note, but a whole orchestra". In film, he joked, they might even use someone else's voice if they did not like you.

"Now that they have discovered effects, they can't let them alone," he said. "Even actors won't be needed eventually. They will recreate Marilyn or Humphrey. It's really spooky." The reliance on effects was excluding the human factor from films: "They are keeping the eye interested rather than engaging the mind and the heart."

Emphasising that he was making a general criticism, he mentioned how *The Full Monty* was indeed about people and relationships "exactly what I love and admire".

Discussing the reluctance to shoot literary scripts, he recalled the years of struggling to convince film-makers to make a screen version of *Breaking the Code*, the powerful play about the breaking of the German Enigma code. Despite its success on stage, he found them wary of a script that was "full of long speeches". There was an assumption that audiences cannot cope with anything more than one-sentence phrases: "It's so patronising to the audience. To get something literary

made took as long as eight years." It was eventually filmed by the BBC's education and religious departments, although they relegated it to a 10.30pm screening. It went on to be recognised at the British Academy of Film and Television awards.

His next project, shooting in three weeks' time in Italy, is *Up at the Villa*, an adaptation of a Somerset Maugham story.

A literary script was, for Sir Derek, one of the appeals of the Bacon movie, written and directed by John Maybury and opening in Britain in September. "It is eminently sayable," he said.



In the picture: Sir Derek Jacobi in Cannes. "They are keeping the eye interested rather than engaging the mind and the heart," he said

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Bogart: knew how to use his lines

BBC steps into big league with bodice ripper

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC yesterday announced that it was moving into big budget films for the first time, beginning with an ambitious \$25 million (£15.6 million) version of *Mary Queen of Scots*.

J&M Entertainment, the leading British producers and distributors, is making a \$60 million screen version of the Jules Verne classic, *20,000 Leagues Under The Sea*. It is thought to be one of the most expensive movies made by a British company, with about the same budget as Working Title's *Thunderbirds*.

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, said yesterday that there would have to be a change in culture so that potential British investors thought of British films as "a high-reward venture" rather than a "high-risk venture".

Whereas investors seemed prepared to support films with budgets up to \$5 million, they were reluctant to spend much more. "They are simply not used to substantial investment in movie-making, unlike Hollywood and the Americans. One of the things I hope for is that the British movie industry's consecutive run of successes will send a good message to British investors about looking at British movies."

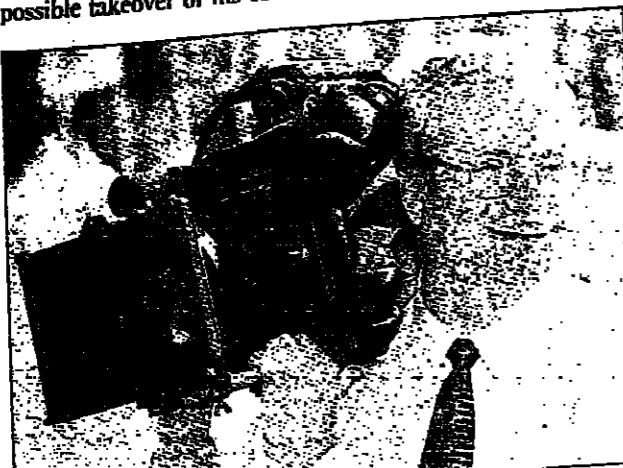
Stuart Tull, of Polygram, who was yesterday refusing to comment on rumours of a possible takeover of his com-

pany, said that to ensure regular successes, Britain had to compete with "real budgets". One of Polygram's movies, tentatively titled *The Notting Hill Film*, starring Hugh Grant, was costing "north of \$40 million".

David Thompson, head of BBC Films, explained: "We are going to start investing in more ambitious films and big budgets, as there will be a glut of low-budget films in Britain particularly. We need larger-scale international films, as well as low-budget ones."

Mary Queen of Scots — which would have a cast of "top star-level" players in a story of "lust, power and intrigue" — was the BBC's most ambitious film ever. It would need to be co-financed, although the search for funding had been eased by international successes with award-winning films such as *Mrs Brown*. He said of the BBC's image: "The brand name does seem to have real clout internationally."

A new film version of Jules Verne's 1864 story — the adventures of Captain Nemo and his crew aboard the submarine *Nautilus* — is being made almost half a century after Kirk Douglas and James Mason starred in the original. Most of the \$60 million would go on the special effects, Michael Ryan, co-founder of J&M Entertainment, said.



Smith at Cannes yesterday: urged a change in culture

Murderer Briton wanted to go home

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Europe forces US to give way in sanctions dispute

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

THE United States and the European Union yesterday at last reached agreement on a contentious trade dispute that should end the threat of American sanctions on European companies doing business with Cuba, Libya and Iran.

The deal, announced by President Clinton and Tony Blair, means that, in return for promises from European governments to deter investment in illegally expropriated property, American sanctions will be waived.

The accords involve the Helms-Burton Act that imposes economic sanctions on foreign firms that use confiscated property in Cuba, and the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act directed against companies investing in energy projects in Iran or Libya.

Mr Clinton said: "I am pleased we have reached agreement today on an issue of vital interest to our own

security and well-being. The EU countries have committed to enhance their co-operation with us."

At a news conference, Mr Blair said: "We have avoided a showdown over sanctions, with which we don't agree, and we have done it in a way that at least provides a chance of a solution to the problem in the future. There is still more work to do, but it is a real step forward."

Although US politicians have insisted that the sanctions are needed to punish offending regimes, Mr Clinton said he believed Congress would be satisfied with the compromise reached. One part of the agreement involves the creation of a global registry of confiscated property to put multinational companies on notice about what businesses would be off-limits for joint partnerships.

Mr Clinton insisted that the

American legislation barring links with Iran and Libya was not primarily a sanctions Act. He said it was designed to give incentives for everyone to work together to slow the spread of weapons of mass destruction and support more aggressive efforts to fight terrorism. To underline the easing of trade tensions between the US and Europe, Mr Clinton and Mr Blair also announced the launching of a "transatlantic economic partnership" of enhanced efforts to reach new trade agreements in a number of areas.

Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, who was also at the talks, said the deal, thrashed out after weeks of intense negotiations, had peacefully ended the long-standing dispute.

"The deal today means European companies and businessmen can conduct their business without the



President Clinton and Tony Blair before yesterday's US-European meeting on trade with Cuba, Libya and Iran

threat of US sanctions hanging over their heads," he said. "It's a deal which is good for the EU, which shows it can act together, united in important foreign policy issues. And it is good for the transatlantic rela-

tionship, which can now develop free of this long-standing dispute."

Mr Clinton, Mr Blair and Mr Santer will be in Geneva today for a meeting to celebrate 50 years of the General

Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which over the years has contributed to liberalising world trade.

Mr Clinton has decided to push for a new global round of trade negotiations to be

launched next year in America. He is returning to the world trade debate after a humiliating rebuff last year when Congress refused to go along with his request for fast-track trade negotiating authority. He needs that authority to reach agreement, not only in a new trade round but in other regional initiatives. Mr Clinton was forced to go to the Summit of the Americas in Santiago, Chile, last month without the fast-track authority. But the Administration insists that Mr Clinton will get the authority he needs when it is time to make deals.

Pipe dreams, page 33

French will reap reward of Gulf defiance

By Michael Dynes

A FRENCH-LED consortium planning to develop the huge South Pars gas field in the Iranian sector of the Gulf will be the first beneficiary of the deal struck between America and Europe yesterday.

The French company Total has 40 per cent of the \$2 billion (£1.25 billion) project to expand the offshore field, which has estimated reserves of 300 trillion cubic feet. The Russian company Gazprom, and the Malaysian firm Petronas, each have 30 per cent.

The Total deal cast a spotlight on the growing transatlantic rift over how to deal with Iran, especially as its new President, Muhammad Khatami, has indicated a desire to improve relations with the United States.

US sanctions have forced American companies to boycott politically sensitive countries with low-cost energy reserves. European and other energy companies have been able to make gains at America's expense. The South Pars deal alone is reported to guarantee the participants an 18 per cent return.

Anticipating the imposition of punitive sanctions, Total has divested itself of all its US holdings, thereby making it impossible for Washington to apply the 1996 Iran-Libya Sanctions Act to any effect.

Netanyahu denies Israeli report of withdrawal deal

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Middle East peace process remained firmly deadlocked last night after Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, returned from talks in America to deny reports in Israel that a breakthrough had been achieved.

The conservative leader staged a surprise press conference on his arrival to deny a prominent Israeli radio report that during his talks he had agreed to a formula which would have involved handing over 13 per cent more of the West Bank to the Palestinians.

"Certain things were published, which were wrong, as if I had agreed to a second redeployment of 13 per cent. That is not true," Mr Netanyahu said. So far, the Israeli position has been to stick at an offer of only 9 per cent, which has been rejected by Yasser Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority.

Israeli political sources said that Mr Netanyahu had called the news conference to thwart a threatened right-wing revolt by some of his backbenchers

after the Israeli radio report that — in some form or another — he had given way to the 13 per cent demand.

Mr Netanyahu said: "There is no breakthrough. We cannot say anything has been resolved."

He went on to insist that the total figure for the three redeployments scheduled under previous accords to take place before final status negotiations begin with the Palestine Liberation Organisation be finalised before any pullback of Israeli troops begins.

Mr Netanyahu claimed that some "new ideas" had been raised during his two meetings with Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, but said that it was too early to say whether these could lead to a breakthrough.

Geneva: The UN Committee against Torture condemned Israel's interrogation techniques on Palestinian suspects, saying that they amounted to torture, and demanded that they "cease immediately". (AFP)



Yasser Arafat with Shimon Peres, the former Israeli leader, at the Socialist International meeting in Oslo

Albright's night call fails to cajole Arafat

By Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

A FRESH attempt to salvage the Middle East peace process ended inconclusively yesterday after Madeleine Albright, the American Secretary of State, summoned Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, to an emergency meeting in London.

She left after two hours of talks that were thought to have centred on reported Israeli willingness, later denied, to move closer to the American proposals for an Israeli pullback from a further 13 per cent of the West Bank. The State Department said that there was no breakthrough, but that the talks had been constructive.

Ms Albright briefed Mr Arafat, who flew in from Oslo, on her talks in Washington last week with Benjamin

Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister. She left immediately afterwards to report to President Clinton in Geneva.

Asked whether she thought a breakthrough could still be achieved, she said: "We'll see. We had good, constructive talks."

A sense of urgency had surrounded the talks after Ms Albright telephoned Mr Arafat in the middle of the night to invite him to London. He interrupted his visit to the Socialist International meeting, saying he hoped that Ms Albright had achieved something with Mr Netanyahu.

President Clinton made little comment on the Middle East during his joint press conference with Tony Blair, saying only that it was important not to raise false hopes.

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Mormon with curse

Hospital refused help shot boy of 11 dying in the street

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Mormons wrestle with curse of Cain

MORMON leaders are engaged in a critical debate over whether to repudiate their Church's historic doctrine that blacks bear the curse of God.

Until now the deliberations have been secret, but the sensitive issue will be thrust into the spotlight later this week at a conference of Mormon historians being held in Washington.

The Church's racist legacy will be addressed in a keynote speech by Armand Mauss, a Professor of Religious Studies who is president of the Mormon History Association. As a distinguished scholar who is also a Mormon, he has warned the Church's highest governing circles that the doctrine is seen by blacks as not only obsolete but demeaning. It is also causing them pain and confusion, he said.

Twenty years ago the Mormons dropped their ban on blacks serving in the priesthood. The decision was taken only after years of internal debate and the realisation that the restriction was hampering Mormon missionaries overseas, especially among blacks in Brazil.

But while insisting that racial equality is now a fundamental teaching of Mormons, the leadership has not repudiated the doc-

Church is trying to shed racist legacy,

Ian Brodie writes

trines based on past beliefs that Africans were descendants of Cain who were cursed by God and therefore inferior.

"Black members are sometimes ridiculed by their friends and families for joining a Church in which such doctrines still circulate," wrote Dr Mauss in an internal paper addressed to senior officials at Mormon headquarters in Salt Lake City. The doctrines had the potential to undermine the Church and constituted a serious, but entirely unnecessary, public relations problem unless they were disavowed, he claimed.

The call for change comes at a time when the Mormon Church, already ten million strong and immensely rich, is claiming unprecedented growth in Africa, where 110,000 converts were reported at the end of last year. Gordon Hinckley, the Church president, recently visited five African countries.

Repudiating old doctrine does not come easily to the conservative Mormon elders. They are fearful that by retracting earlier statements about blacks they will cast doubts on other Mormon teachings. The Church was founded by Joseph Smith after inscriptions on tablets of gold were purportedly revealed to him in a secret hiding place in 1827.

However, there may be a way out of the dilemma for Mormon theologians who say there is no direct evidence that Smith was against blacks. Indeed, one black was admitted to the priesthood in the 1840s. It was only after Smith's assassination by an anti-Mormon lynch mob that his successor, Brigham Young, changed the Church's views on blacks.

However, the embrace of racism after Smith's death could offer the Church an escape from its dilemma, according to Jan Shipps, a Professor of Religion who will be attending this week's conference. She said yesterday that it could enable Mormon leaders to pull back from the Church's attitude towards blacks as a matter of "reinterpretation" without laying themselves open to charges of changing doctrine.



Haze and smoke obscure the skyline of Mexico City yesterday as the worst drought in more than 70 years has led to a series of forest and bush fires which threaten Chiapas and other states in the south of the country with an environmental disaster

Hospital refused to help shot boy of 15 dying in the street

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A TEENAGE boy, shot in the abdomen in a gang attack, bled to death after he collapsed just 35ft from the entrance to a hospital in Chicago, whose staff refused to move him inside or to treat him on the pavement where he lay unconscious.

When the boy's friends pleaded for help, a doctor is alleged to have told them that it was "against the rules" to treat someone off the premises. Although three suspects have been charged in connection with the shooting, which happened on Saturday, critical attention is bearing down on the Ravenswood Hospital, on Chicago's North Side, which appears to have put its worries about insurance cover above concern for the boy's life.

Christopher Sercye, a black 15-year-old, was playing a basketball with two friends in an alley by the hospital when he was shot by one of a gang of three teenagers.

Bleeding profusely, he was dragged by his friends close to the hospital before he collapsed unconscious. They rushed in and implored staff for help. But none was forthcoming, even though Sercye's prostrate body could be seen from the front door. Donna

Dudley, who lives nearby, also saw Sercye lying in a pool of blood. She, too, ran into the hospital, only to be told that policy prevented any care until emergency staff delivered the victim.

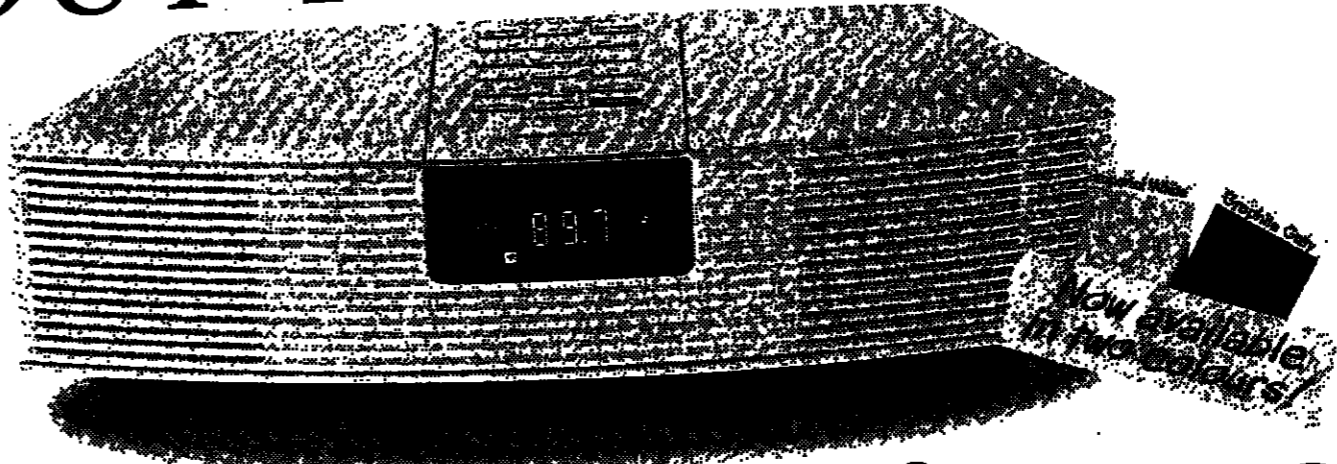
Ms Dudley said: "Here you have a young man bleeding in the alley within yards of the emergency room. I think it's unconscionable that a healthcare system did not have enough human consideration to come out and help this young man."

Instead of going out to help, it is alleged that hospital staff telephoned for an ambulance. By the time it arrived, Sercye had lost blood unchecked for almost half an hour.

In the meantime, two policemen reportedly appalled by the hospital's attitude—dragged the boy in themselves. Sercye died at 7.30, from a haemorrhage caused by a massive loss of blood. A hospital spokeswoman said that it was "not a trauma centre" and had strict rules barring staff from "leaving the facility to treat patients".

However, another hospital employee said that the likely reason for non-intervention was a fear of lawsuits and inadequate insurance cover.

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JOEL ROBINE / AFP

Whalers 'hid the toll of Pacific catches'

BY NICK NUTTALL ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

MANY thousand more whales were killed by Japanese and former Soviet whalers than official figures claim, scientists said yesterday. A meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in Muscat, the capital of Oman, was told that 70,000 sperm whales were slaughtered illegally by the Soviet deep-sea fleet in the Pacific between 1949 and 1971. Russian scientists admitted that they had been sworn to secrecy by the KGB and Soviet officials. The extra kills were hidden by so-called double booking. Toshio Kasuya, a former fisheries scientist for the Japanese Government, alleged that his country's fleet had killed large numbers of pregnant sperm whales in the Pacific in defiance of IWC rules. He claimed that Japanese whalers, who were allowed to take pregnant female sperm whales caught accidentally, had actually targeted them. Up to 40 per cent of the catch were pregnant females, rather than the 11 per cent officially claimed. A proposal from Michael Canny, the Irish whaling commissioner, calls for a global sanctuary in return for a limited approval of coastal whaling in a nation's waters. But Allan Thornton, of the London-based Environmental Investigation Agency, said: "These extraordinary revelations prove commercial whaling cannot be controlled. The whaling industry has deliberately lied about the numbers of whales killed." Britain is leading opposition to the Irish move, backed by the United States and Australia.

Mayor's wife held over Paris payroll scandal

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE wife of the Gaullist Mayor of Paris was taken into custody yesterday as part of a wide-ranging and politically explosive investigation into alleged sinecures handed out by local authorities. Xavière Tiberi, the wife of Jean Tiberi, was questioned over allegations that she was paid Fr210,000 (£21,000) in 1994 by the Essonne district council outside Paris for a short report that was apparently copied from a book. Mme Tiberi was detained by judicial police in Versailles and her house in Paris was searched, as magistrates sought to establish why she had received wages from the council both before and after submitting the report. M Tiberi, under assault from his estranged allies within the capital's city council and undermined by the allegations against his wife, came under renewed pressure last night after a report that the Paris Hôtel de Ville paid hundreds of political cronies for fictitious

work in the 1980s when President Chirac was Mayor. Georges Quémar, personnel director at the city hall between 1983 and 1988, told Le Parisien that the municipality had employed up to 300 people in fictitious jobs "at a cost to the public of Fr80 million to Fr100 million a year". M Quémar, who was sentenced to six months in prison for influence-peddling in 1993, according to the newspaper, said that the payroll had been controlled by M Tiberi, then M Chirac's deputy and a close political ally. M Tiberi took over as Mayor of Paris when M Chirac won the presidency in 1995. The paper claimed that an official list of people paid between Fr2,000 and Fr3,000 a month included the son of a former presidential candidate, the niece of a former Prime Minister, a ballet dancer and several other political notables or their relatives. The allegations against



Xavière Tiberi, escorted by police, arrives home after being questioned over a payment involving a former official of her husband's Gaullist party

Mme Tiberi first emerged two years ago and the mayor's allies went to extraordinary lengths to scupper the ensuing investigation, even sending a helicopter to scour the Himalayas for a Paris state prosecutor on holiday, in a fruitless effort to persuade him to halt the corruption investigation. Dugoin was given a suspended 18-month prison sentence last week for paying his wife for fake work and employing a household servant with public funds. According to M Quémar's allegations, about 1 per cent of the city's total annual tax revenue was spent on sinecures for individuals, most of whom did not have an office, a telephone or even a desk in the Hôtel de Ville. The city's former personnel director claimed that the ranks of those given fictitious jobs included politicians who

had lost their seats in elections, supporters from M Chirac's home region in the Corrèze, Gaullist party workers and friends, including writers and poets. Elisabeth Guigou, the Socialist Justice Minister, was questioned about the various scandals involving the Paris municipality and asserted that: "Like all French citizens, the President of the republic can be brought before the courts if he has committed an offence." M Tiberi is facing a political assault from members of his own party, led by the former Justice Minister, Jacques Toubon, who last month launched what the mayor described as "an attempted coup" by declaring that the entire city government should be overhauled.

Sweeping Lebed victory rattles Russia's presidential hopefuls

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW



RUSSIAN leaders across the political spectrum were aghast yesterday after the resounding victory of Aleksandr Lebed, the former paratroop general, in Sunday's election for the governorship of the rich Siberian region of Krasnoyarsk. General Lebed, 48, won more than 57 per cent of the vote to give him clear victory over Valeri Zubov, the Kremlin-backed incumbent, who took just over 38 per cent. The victory provides him with a powerful finan-

cial and political base for the presidential race when President Yeltsin's term expires in 2000. As far as his enemies are concerned — and they range from leaders of the so-called "party of power" to the opposition liberals, communists and hardline nationalists — that race has already started. Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, said the result was a misfortune for Krasnoyarsk and for the country as a whole and reflected the widespread public distrust of the Government. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the ultra-nationalist leader whose

Liberal Democratic Party stands to lose much of its support to the authoritarian, nationalist general, compared the latter's lust for power to that of an addict yearning for a fix. Dmitri Ayatskov, the pro-market reform Governor of Saratov — to whom Mr Yeltsin referred jokingly in Birmingham over the weekend as "the next President of Russia" — said that, if General Lebed announced his candidacy for the presidency, he would also run. There is no question that Russian politics have been given a severe jolt by the Krasnoyarsk result — though

the outcome had been predicted for weeks — and that opposition and pro-government leaders alike are alarmed at the prospect of having to find a candidate capable of beating General Lebed. Krasnoyarsk is often referred to as a microcosm of Russia, with the contrast between the relatively prosperous and sophisticated Krasnoyarsk city and the impoverished outlying districts reflecting that of Moscow and the regions. Past elections have led several Russian pollsters to refer to Krasnoyarsk as Russia's New Hampshire, so closely

do the regional votes correspond to the national votes. It is potentially the richest region of Russia, with mineral deposits, gold and oil, but it faces huge economic problems. General Lebed does not appear to have any concrete programme, preferring to speak in general terms about getting people to stop stealing and start working. He does have one regional ally, however. His brother, Aleksei, is Governor of the neighbouring Siberian region of Khakassia. Leading article, page 25

Advertisement for 'save @ direct' featuring a large image of a person's face with the letters 'A', 'B', 'C', and '3' overlaid. The text includes 'Call. Collect up to 8-10%' and 'save @ direct'. It also contains a table with financial details and a list of nationwide stores.

Advertisement for 'SOFTWARE WAREHOUSE' featuring a large '80% OFF' discount on Microsoft software. It lists various products like Office 97 Pro, Publisher 98, and Windows 95 Upgrade/NT Workstation V4 UG with their respective savings. It also includes a '2 FREE CDs' offer and contact information for nationwide stores.

Partial advertisement for 'Cutlass' featuring a large image of a person's face and text including 'Cutlass' and 'Hopes rise for EU reprieve on duty-free trade'.

حکومت من الاصل

Cutlass army terrorises Sierra Leone

THE latest victims in Sierra Leone's civil war lay on filthy mattresses in Makeni Hospital, struggling to understand the horrors they had left behind them in the bush.

In the "admissions ward", two young men, barely out of their teens, sat patiently staring at the livid stumps where their hands used to be. Both wore hats of white bandages over where their ears used to be. These victims of the deposed junta and its allies in the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) contemplated the possibility that their missing limbs have been the main ingredient in what locals call



Troops from the deposed Freetown junta have embarked on a reign of disfigurement, death and terror, Sam Kiley reports from Makeni

"rebel stew". The belief that the rebels indulge in cannibalism is credible after witnessing their handiwork in Makeni Hospital. The aim of the mutilations, committed at a rate of at least ten people a day, appears to be to paralyse President Kabbah's Government, which was elected just over 12

months ago in defiance of RUF demands for a postponement.

Many mutilated survivors had lost their families to the RUF rebels and the former Sierra Leone army, one-time enemies who joined forces to form the junta which drove President Kabbah from power. Restored to office by a Nigerian-led

force and mercenaries from Sandline International, the Kabbah Government now faces a rural reign of terror orchestrated by the rebels.

"The victims come in to use with notes that have been shoved in their pockets. They say things like, 'Go to Kabbah for your medicine', death threats against me, and warnings that they are going to come to the town an implement what they call Operation No Living Thing - when they kill anything, everyone, and anything they see," said Dr Samuel Baker, the head of the small hospital which has found itself in the centre of an evil storm.

He has already escaped an attempt to abduct him. By duping his would-be kidnappers into thinking he was someone else, he slipped out of their clutches and walked 80 miles through dense bush to safety.

Mohammed Mustafa and his family were not so fortunate. They arrived in their village, eight miles from Makeni, on Saturday at lunchtime. They were surrounded by about a dozen rebels and herded into a hut. "They slaughtered one old man among us almost immediately. They cut him down with cutlasses. Then they said they would kill us all," said Mr Mohammed, 54.

Gasping through his tears and looking down at the bloodied stumps where his fingers used to be, he told of how his party spent the next six hours terrified that they would be the next victims of the cutlass. "They said that we were spies for the Ecomog [West African peace keepers]. At about six in the evening a man who said he was a major came and cut off all our ears. He made us put our hands on a block of wood, and then they cut off our fingers, some lost their whole hands," said Mr Mustafa, whose career as a builder is now over. His daughter, Amirita, 15, was dragged away into the bush to serve as a sex

slave for the rebels.

Outside the hospital, local reporters spotted the pregnant girl friend of Johnny Paul Koroma, leader of the junta who is now on the run from the Nigerian troops and the organizer of the mass mutilations and killings in the countryside. "One word from her, and we're all dead - or worse," said the owner of a local night club struggling back to life after it was looted by major Koroma and his men in February. "They're the kiss of death, these people, the end of everything".

Leading article, page 25

Hopes rise for EU reprieve on duty-free trade

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

THE first step towards a reprieve for duty-free shopping could be taken by European Union ministers today after Germany threw its weight behind a campaign by a minority of member states to consider the economic impact of abolishing a trade that employs tens of thousands of people.

The industry, which has been campaigning against the planned end of duty-free sales, said it was optimistic that finance ministers would agree to ask the Commission to review the consequences of the 1991 decision to close the trade for travellers inside EU borders from July next year.

Any reprieve for the E3 billion trade would require a proposal from the Commission and unanimous approval by the 15 member states. The Commission and most governments are opposed to any delay in what the EU considers to be an anachronism in the customs-free European single market.

However, the industry is taking heart from a political shift. With elections in the autumn, Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, has now told his ministers to fight for a delay to the end of an industry which employs thousands of Germans and contributes especially to the prosperity of the Baltic ferry ports.

Charlie McCreery, the Irish

Finance Minister, is to call on the EU Finance Council today to request a study on the implications of a move that, among other things, would cost his country an estimated 1,300 jobs. Greece wants duty-frees to continue and France and Italy have also indicated that they would back a review.

Britain, which holds the EU presidency until July, has taken an ambiguous line, with John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, calling for a review while Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, has ruled one out. The Government is now seeking to deflect the heat by saying Mr Brown, in the chair at today's council, would not oppose "a report on the following regime" after the end of duty-free shopping.

This would seek to settle how ferries and airlines carrying passengers within the EU would apply VAT and duty for onboard sales. The question is complicated because of the varying duty rates applied by each member state to alcohol, tobacco and perfume.

British ferry companies and airport authorities have also been stepping up their campaigns. Robin Wilkins, managing director of the SeaFrance ferry company, said last week that passengers would have to pay 30 per cent more to cross the Channel when sales of duty-free goods are abolished.

Brussels fails to halt lorry blockades

BY CHARLES BRENNER

FRENCH lorry drivers and other protesters will be effectively free to carry on disrupting European transport after EU ministers yesterday watered down a proposal that would have empowered Brussels to order Governments to take emergency action against stoppages.

Under British chairmanship, the internal market ministers instead agreed on a new regulation that will only allow them to request a member state to take "necessary and proportionate measures" to end action that is obstructing the movement of EU goods.

Spurred by recent actions by French lorry drivers and farmers, the European Commission had sought authority to order a member state to lift blockades and other obstacles to the free movement of goods within the single market. Failure to obey could have led to court action, and victims of disruption could have used a Commission order in damage claims before national courts. Although backed by Spain, whose farm produce is frequently blocked, the proposal was deemed by Britain and most member states to be far too strong.

In a separate political statement, the member states agreed to do all within their powers to maintain the free movement of goods and to deal rapidly with disruptions.



The Pope says Mass at the church of Santa Maria Asunta in Rome

Frail Pope defies ill-health to mark his 78th birthday

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Pope, who yesterday turned 78, is poised to defy ill health and become the longest reigning Pope this century, overtaking Pope Pius XII (1959-1963).

In accordance with tradition there were no birthday festivities in the Vatican yesterday. "The nuns do not bake a cake and light candles," one Vatican official said. But he said there would be "private celebrations" next Monday when the Pope's reign reaches 19 years and seven months, making him the 13th longest lasting of all 264 Popes since St Peter.

Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903), the last of the 19th-century Popes, reigned for more than 25 years. Papal reigns in this century have been much shorter: Paul VI (1963-1978) was Pope for 15 years, but John XXIII (1958-1963) reigned for only four years and Pope John Paul I, the present pontiff's ill-fated predecessor, for 36 days.

The Italian press yesterday adopted an almost elegiac tone, recalling Karol Wojtyla's election in October 1978 as the first non-Italian pontiff for 455 years; the assassination attempt in 1981, and his recent meeting with Cuba's President Castro, capping a career of global travels.

"John Paul II is one of the people who has most influenced our century, playing a key role in the downfall of

Communism and acting as reference point for humanity's moral conscience." *Il Messaggero* said. *Corriere della Sera* said the Pope had given Roman Catholicism back its world dimension and global reach, and had bravely apologised for the past errors of the Church. But he had not modernised doctrine on social and sexual issues, leading to a "crisis in priestly vocations and empty churches and confessionals".

The Pope has looked increasingly frail lately, and his shaking left hand is said to be a symptom of Parkinson's disease. Last week the Pope - in his youth an active sportsman and keen football fan - dismayed officials by failing to recognise Ronaldo, the Brazil and Inter Milan football star, when the World Player of the Year was granted an audience in the Vatican.

There is no tradition of papal resignations - the last Pope to step down voluntarily was Pope Celestine V in 1294 - and the pontiff, who is noted for his willpower as well as his charisma, shows no sign of flagging in his determination to see in 2000.

"See you again in the third millennium," he said to a group of children on Sunday. "I am an old priest... don't forget that you will be old one day too, just as I do not forget that I was once young."

TV crew reveals Chinese police brutality

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING



A suspect, with his back to the camera, handcuffed to the bars over a window in a Shanghai police station

FILM shots of suspects being beaten during interrogations at a police station in Shanghai have been taken by a Canadian Television Network (CTV) crew. Holly Doan, the company's Beijing bureau chief, said yesterday.

At least two suspects are shown receiving blows while handcuffed to bars in a second-floor window of the police station. The film, which shows one man recoiling from repeated blows while his wrists are handcuffed behind him, was shot from a window across an alleyway from the station, Ms Doan said.

"Every time we went, it took only a couple of hours before we saw what we saw," said Ms Doan of the coverage,

which was to be broadcast in Canada last night. "That convinced me that it happens regularly."

A senior Public Security Bureau official at the Shanghai district in question said early such film was a "sheer fabrication", and threatened to sue CTV for defamation. "Insults and beatings to criminals do not exist," said Jiang Weiguo, the district police station chief.

He said that the station, in the Lu Wan district of central Shanghai, had been recognised as one of ten national model police stations by the Public Security Ministry and that it "strictly obeys rules, prohibiting beating detainees, especially suspects".

Nato fears 'spy' radar in Cyprus

Nicosia: Britain and America, alarmed that Moscow will have access to intelligence from the skies over Nato's highly sensitive southeastern flank, are increasing pressure on the Greek Cypriots not to deploy Russian-made anti-aircraft missiles, defence analysts said yesterday (Michael Theodorou writes). Both countries said they were more concerned by the powerful radar that accompanies the air defence system than the missiles. It could enable Russia to monitor every flight in and out of Britain's sprawling airbase at Akrotiri, the biggest RAF base in the world.

Milosevic manoeuvring risks walkout by Montenegro

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

Radicals and Communists to topple Mr Kovic, blamed for Yugoslavia's poor economic performance.

Mr Milosevic now presides over a federation whose economy is in ruins, in which Serbia is at war with Albanian secessionists in Kosovo, and where Montenegro might choose to go its own way. If Montenegro exits, then analysts fear there would be little reason to stop Kosovo's independence or that of other areas where non-Serb minorities prevail, such as the Muslim Sanjak or Vojvodina, with its ethnic Hungarians.

The growing influence of

Montenegro's pro-Western President, Milo Djukanovic, harassed through Mr Kovic, has hampered Mr Milosevic from riding roughshod in Yugoslav politics.

London: The international Contact Group on former Yugoslavia has put a hold on sanctions against Serbia because Belgrade has agreed to talks with ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, the Foreign Office said yesterday.

An embargo on new investments in Serbia, decided at a Contact Group meeting a week ago in Birmingham, "will not be put into effect", a statement said. (AFP)

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Leaders appeal to Sharif

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

PRESIDENT CLINTON and Tony Blair yesterday urged Pakistan not to retaliate against India by conducting its own nuclear tests.

In a joint telephone call after the European Union-US summit in London, the two leaders told Nawaz Sharif that restraint would be strongly supported by the international community. They added that it could also benefit Pakistan in political, security and economic terms.

Both told Mr Sharif that they understood the pressure he was under. In turn, Mr Sharif explained the immense feeling in Pakistan over last week's action by India.

Mr Clinton said earlier: "This is a very sad thing because it has the prospect of spreading not just to Pakistan, but to others in a way that could reverse decades of movement away from the nuclear precipice."

Pakistan weighs price for calling off tests

Christopher Thomas in Islamabad reports on America's diplomatic use of the carrot-and-stick technique

THE Government of Nawaz Sharif is weighing the prospect of economic rewards if Pakistan backs away from conducting an underground nuclear test. If it goes ahead, the economy faces potentially devastating sanctions — a worrying prospect for a country permanently on the edge of political crisis.

Washington has not given up hope of persuading Islamabad to show restraint, despite the Government's announcement that it would go ahead with testing. Pakistan has been told privately that the Clinton Administration might be ready to work with Congress on a package of measures to reward the Islamic state for deciding against matching India's demonstration of nuclear strength.

Rarely has Pakistan been in a better position to bargain for economic help. One crucial question is the reimbursement of \$650 million (£398 million) from America for 23 ordered but undelivered F16 military aircraft. Islamabad might argue for the return of the money or delivery of the

planes, halted in an earlier punishment of Pakistan's refusal to roll back its nuclear programme.

Delivery of the aircraft would be a sensitive issue for Washington, since they are perfectly tailored for delivering nuclear weapons. Islamabad has a dilemma: it would gain politically in the short run by conducting a test, but lose in the long term because of heightened economic hardship. It is understood that Strobe Talbott, the special envoy sent by President Clinton to Islamabad, may have raised the prospect of substantial economic benefits to Pakistan for not testing a nuclear device.

China could be the key to persuading Pakistan not to test. It has supplied much of the technology for Islamabad's nuclear and missile

programmes and is in a position to exert influence, especially as its help would be needed in further development of the programmes.

Beijing might seek to exact a price from Washington to use that influence: a lifting of restrictions on the flow of US high technology, for example. This manoeuvring may already be too late, judging by the unrelenting clamour of public opinion for a test, but it seems to have been enough to stall a test over the past few days. Pakistan has dispatched Shahnshad Ahmed, the head of its Foreign Ministry, to Beijing, described as a "time-tested friend", to update China on Islamabad's intentions.

Questions are slowly emerging in India about the seriousness of the military threat from China — the main justification for the explosions,

along with the perception that Pakistan also poses a significant but lesser threat. China has reacted angrily to the Indian assertion that it is a potential aggressor. Its commentators say Beijing has enough problems with Taiwan and the South China Sea without worrying about India.

The International Institute for Strategic Studies says there is no credible evidence to back India's claim that China has stationed nuclear missiles in Tibet. Its most modern fighter planes are Russian-made and in poor repair.

But Indian defence analysts insist that China's improving military capability makes it necessary for Delhi to develop a nuclear deterrent. India has only one missile in production — the short-range Prithvi — and probably possesses about 40 of them. That compares with a Chinese armoury of 17 intercontinental ballistic missiles, 38 intermediate-range missiles and 13 submarine-launched missiles, according to estimates by the institute.

Letters, page 25



Children in Delhi take the opportunity to cool down yesterday at a burst water pipe as the temperature reached more than 41C (106F) in the Indian capital

WORLD IN BRIEF

Syria to sign arms pact with Moscow

Jerusalem: Russia and Syria are on the verge of signing their first arms agreement since the end of the Cold War, according to Israeli security and Russian diplomatic sources quoted in the *Jerusalem Post* (Christopher Walker writes).

Estimated to be worth between \$300 million (£184 million) and \$400 million, the deal is reported to involve air defence systems comparable to the American-made Patriot missile supplied to Israel. Western security experts said that if the sale went ahead it would be a confirmation of high-level intelligence reports indicating that Russia is planning to raise its diminished profile in the Middle East. The Russians will not be selling any tanks or missiles to Damascus.

Machel 'killed by Pretoria'

Cape Town: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa announced yesterday that it had received new evidence linking the 1986 death of Samora Machel, then President of Mozambique, to the former apartheid defence force. Mr Machel and 33 others died when their plane crashed on South African territory. An inquiry blamed the crash on an air traffic control misunderstanding but new evidence suggests that the apartheid regime may have tampered with aviation beacons. (AFP)

Buried baby found alive

Pasadena: A woman jogging with her dogs in California found a day-old boy along a path, partially buried and still with his umbilical cord. The baby was taken to Huntington Memorial Hospital with severe hypothermia and was said to be in a serious condition but responding well to treatment. "The baby was full-term and the delivery appears to have occurred just before the child was discovered in a shallow grave," said Michael Irving, a sheriff's deputy for Los Angeles County. (AP)

Tourists invited to chill out

Sydney: The Australian Government has said that tourists may visit its bases in Antarctica but they will have to sleep on board ship. It vetoed the idea of turning the bases into ice-bound resorts. The Government has also rejected plans to close up to three of the four installations and of turning one or more into tourist attractions, opting instead to keep all of them in operation for the foreseeable future. (AP)

Hong Kong fines flag vandals

Hong Kong: A magistrate bound over two men for 12 months and fined them HK\$4,000 (£317) each after they vandalised Chinese national and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region flags (Michael Mackey writes). The magistrate rejected the defence of Ng Kung-siu and Lee Kin-yun that laws on desecration were unconstitutional because they contravened the Basic Law's guarantees on freedom of expression.

£2,900 for Mars fragment

New York: A meteorite fragment from Mars sold for \$4,600 (£2,900) — 1,600 times the value of its weight in gold, Phillips auction house said. Found in Brazil in 1983, it weighs about 100th of an ounce and measures 2mm (four-fiftieths of an inch) by 2mm by 4mm. Gold trades at about £190 an ounce. "This is a world record for a piece of Mars," said Phillips. (Reuters)

Stone leaves workers jaded

Beijing: Chinese workers have so far found it impossible to dig out the world's largest piece of jade, which is 100ft in diameter and weighs an estimated 60,000 tonnes. "No machine can lift or load such a massive stone," said Guang Zichuan, the engineer in charge of the project in Liaoning province. The stone is more than 100 times larger than any previously discovered. (AFP)

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The art of listening

In an ideal world, the Samaritans would like to be out of business. A new book aims to teach us all how to help people in crisis. Erica Wagner reports

On the cliffs at Beachy Head there stands a phone box. A big sign urges those in despair — there is about one suicide a month from the spot — to ring the Samaritans. The voice at the other end of the line won't give any advice. Won't say don't. Won't say you shouldn't. Will simply listen. That is what the Samaritans do, just listen, for a collective total of 3.2 million hours last year. Put like that, it sounds very simple.

It isn't always that easy. Susan Quilliam is an agony aunt (for *FHM* and *Women's Weekly*) and the author of a book published to coincide with Samaritans Week, which runs from May 15 to 23. The theme is the importance of listening, and Quilliam's book, *What to Do When You Really Want to Help But Don't Know How*, aims to provide the friends, leagues and confidants of those in distress with some of the listening skills that the Samaritans are taught.

Quilliam is a vibrant, dark-haired woman in her forties. Sitting in an airy office in Milton Keynes and dressed in a neat jacket and blue jeans, she gives the impression of strength and comfort: the kind of woman in whom one would want to confide. Trained in psychotherapy and counselling, she tells me that while professional help is increasingly available, there is nothing like being able to turn to a friend. Obvious? Not necessarily, as anyone who has ever held back from a confidence — surely most of us — will know.

While sometimes it might seem easier to talk to a Samaritan or a professional counsellor, someone who doesn't know you, that isn't always the case. Friends, after all, have your interests at heart. "It can be quite a leap of faith to go to a counsellor," says Quilliam. "So people often just don't do it. And I believe that in an ideal world, the sort of help that people give each other on a minute-to-minute basis is the kind of help that saves lives. If this book did its job the Samaritans wouldn't be needed."

The organisation, she as-



Family and friends who listen can help to prevent suicides

serts, wants nothing more than to be put out of a job. "They would love it if people supported each other before the problems arose: if the social fabric, which is breaking down, cohesed again."

It is a point with which Simon Armon, chief executive of the Samaritans, wholeheartedly agrees. "If society took better care of itself, and people took better care of each other, there would be no need for people to turn to organisations like ours," he says.

But it isn't just the "breakdown of the social fabric" — Britain has the highest rate of divorce in Europe, and there are now over 1.5 million single-parent families, more than twice as many as there were 20 years ago — that causes problems. Helping isn't easy — which is why Samaritans are strictly screened, why they are

trained, why they are supported in their work by supervisors. For the same reasons, friends and relatives need to give careful thought to what they do to achieve by helping, a point Quilliam emphasises in her book. Our lives are bounded by fences of *shoulds* and *oughts*: judgments we apply to our own lives and to the lives of others, even if that judgment is unconscious. In order to help, the first thing to do is to let go of that judgment and accept what your friend, your colleague, your partner says.



The Samaritans lent a compassionate ear for 3.2 million hours last year alone, a workload they attribute largely to the breakdown of society



Susan Quilliam says silence is golden

of change than anything a professional counsellor can offer. "The difficulty is that it doesn't often happen like that: people have conscious and unconscious agendas of their own. A parent who turns to his 20-year-old son and says, 'My marriage is breaking down' takes a hell of a risk. The son is likely, quite understandably, to have his whole

It can be quite a leap of faith to go to a counsellor

world turned upside down. But if he can then look back and say 'I know, I'm really sorry and I still love you and Mum very much' — it won't make the break-up any easier but it will help in the long-term survival of everyone involved." Reading Quilliam's book, with its big type and line drawings, is a somewhat sobering experience for anyone who wants to be a "good helper". Think carefully about the anecdote above: how difficult would it be for that son to show such patient understanding? The person most closely involved is not always the best person to help: it is

hard to have perspective on something that affects you so directly. If acceptance is the most important aspect of helping, is it not also the most difficult? "It is difficult, and when it's difficult it's impossible," Quilliam says. "If my partner said to me tonight 'I'm leaving you', I couldn't offer him acceptance. If he said 'I want to commit suicide', I couldn't sit here and let him do it. And I wouldn't expect myself to. I am too involved. Also, we are brought up to interact and make suggestions: acceptance is not only counter-intuitive, it's counter-cultural."

"If people are given space and time they can often think through to their own solution. They have to take the initiative of asking for advice. Your intuition to offer advice may rush in too soon; the important thing is to hold back and let that person find what's best for them."

But there is a kind of emotional peril: a friend who opens up to you may regret his action later, and you may find yourself distanced from him. There is, too, the possibility of physical danger: while the Samaritans' duty is to listen in confidence, no matter what action the caller takes, Quilliam stresses the need to seek professional help if things are getting out of hand. Sources of such help are listed in the book.

People fear they'll get it wrong," Quilliam says. "They fear they will do more harm than good. So they hold back, thinking, if I give this person advice and it all goes pear-shaped, it will be my fault. Interestingly, I think the real danger is different: not that the person will take our advice and blame us, but that we miss an opportunity when we just rush in with advice; an opportunity to listen, to let that person help themselves."

The rewards of such patience can be great. John is a Samaritan in Falkirk — a district that had to cope with the horror of Dunblane. In his 50s, with two grown sons, he has been a Samaritan for more than eight years. "It's natural to think that we know better than someone with a problem; but the truth is that we know how we might feel in their situation — that's quite different from how they might feel," he says. He says you cannot be a Samaritan to your friends, but there are techniques you can take away. "With my friends now, I'll sit and listen. It has changed my attitude. I don't think we listen enough. You can shriek all you like at someone but if you're not saying the right things it won't make any difference. And when you interrupt someone — you might think they're just saying something trivial: they might be leading up to something big, and you have lost that."

Susan Quilliam is unequivocal about the best way to help. "Silence is more than golden: it is essential. So get a big reel of gaffer tape and a pair of scissors. Cut off a piece of tape about six inches long and place it over your mouth. Keep that tape on until the other person says to you 'What I really need is for you to help me talk about this:'"

■ *The Samaritans' book of What to Do When You Really Want to Help But Don't Know How* by Susan Quilliam is published by Transformation Press, £5.99.

How calcium can help you make old bones

A BONE and mineral centre has recently been formed at University College London, which already claims to house the largest concentration of bio-medical expertise in Europe and to rival any in America.

The new centre for the study of basic clinical skeletal research was officially launched last week. Research will cover all branches of skeletal medicine but its initial impact, where patients are concerned, is likely to be in the field of osteoporosis.

Osteoporosis is mainly a chronic condition affecting post-menopausal women, or more acutely patients of either sex who have been taking corticosteroid medication for the long-term treatment of many arthritic conditions, transplants, occasionally asthma, and other medical problems. Recently, however, the *Johns Hopkins Medical Newsletter* has emphasised the importance of osteoporosis to patients with prostate cancer who are being treated with testosterone-suppressing therapy.

A study of 235 men who had had anti-testosterone therapy demonstrated an unacceptably high rate of bone fractures. The *Johns Hopkins* doctors advised that these men should have not less than 1,500 milligrams of calcium daily and at least 800 international units of vitamin D. More recently it has been suggested that a group of drugs, the bisphosphonates, might be helpful in these cases as a means of reducing further bone loss from osteoporosis — further research is awaited.

One case in 12 of osteoporosis in Britain involves a man. Three million women and three quarters of a million men at the moment have osteoporotic bones which, if they were subjected to abnormal stresses and strains, such as might follow a slip on an icy pavement or wet grass, might fracture their hip, forearm, spine or collarbone.

Although one in 12 men over 70 is in danger of his shrinking skeleton breaking, almost half — 45 per cent — of all women in their later years are at risk. As people live longer, osteoporosis will become more common, so that osteoporotic-related fractures are expected to double over the next 50 years. Osteoporosis is a silent disease that results in inconvenience rather than illness until the bones have become so weak that they break after some minor

tibolone not only controls hot flushes and other menopausal symptoms but prevents osteoporosis. It has no adverse effect on the uterus and shouldn't be prescribed until the woman has been post-menopausal for a year. Didronel PMO etidronate and Fosamax alendronate are the bisphosphonates in common use.

However well stocked the older person's medicine chest is with HRT, calcium, vitamin D and the bisphosphonates, both men and women are recommended to eat a healthy diet with plenty of vitamins. Vitamin D will also protect against infection, and possibly even some malignancies. The risk of osteoporosis is reduced by modest, but not excessive, amounts of alcohol, likewise brisk, regular exercise. Excessive dieting, alcohol, and exercise and even light smoking should be avoided.

For women, hormone replacement therapy — which maintains pre-menopausal levels of oestrogen — remains the gold standard by which other therapies are judged. Maintaining oestrogen levels also reduces the risk of cardiovascular disease and possibly delays Alzheimer's. Various oestrogen therapies are available but unless the woman has had a hysterectomy, she should also take progesterone to protect the uterus from malignant change.

The synthetic steroid Livial

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

incident. Likewise, the spinal bones may collapse. Twenty per cent of people die within six months of breaking their hip. Every year there are 60,000 diagnosed hip fractures, 50,000 wrist fractures, and 40,000 collapsed spinal vertebrae which are thought to be the result of osteoporosis.

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Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page. Text includes: "If I did too much posh food Noel would have a word", "YOUR HOME IS AT RISK", and "Four que before b".

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page: "هكذا من الاصل"

'If I did too much posh food, Noel would have a word'

From cheesecake to cheesy fish pies, Mouse caters for the tastes of a host of rock stars. Interview by Louise France

Oasis like beef and Guinness pie, so much so that Meg Matthews, also known as Mrs Noel Gallagher, rings up to order it before each tour. Madonna prefers Caribbean chicken and Bailey's cheesecake. Blur insist on carrot juice. Never let it be said that rock stars are precious.

The woman who holds this privileged information in her recipe books is the 35-year-old chef who runs Cat and Mouse, the catering company which panders to the culinary whims of Britain's top bands. Four years ago she turned a one-woman business into the food outfit now favoured by the famous (and infamous) rock stars who know her as Mouse, her childhood nickname. She refuses to be known as anything else and anyway, if you are in the rock industry, one assumes a mad nickname goes a long way. "Cat and Mouse are the people's caterers," says the reverential and right-on Margaret Mouskatis, tour manager for Oasis. The Prodigy, Stone Roses, Iron Maiden, and Radiohead are also enthusiastic clients.

So Mouse: does Liam like nothing better than scrubbing congealed scrambled egg from the bottom of a pan? Do you make Jarvis Cocker eat his greens? Are musicians as badly mannered and obnoxious as rock legend has it?

Mouse, friendly, thoughtful and generally happier talking about star signs than profit margins, refuses to rise to such taunts. "I'm like their mum. I get the work because I treat them like normal people. They don't want people flapping round them all the time. I tell them, 'I'm going to cook and you're going to eat.' That's it. End of story."

Liam and Noel are "steak plain men," she concedes, although she has managed to expand their repertoire. "In the beginning they wouldn't eat anything complicated with herbs or even gravy. Now they love my chicken and cashew nuts. But if I did too much posh food, Noel would have a word."

Chicken also goes down well with Stone Roses who will eat anything as long as it is, well, chicken. Black Grape don't eat. But Mouse has discovered that most bands can be persuaded to demolish tropical chicken curry and roast dinners. We are not, it should be said, talking sophisticated foodies here: rock's finest like their comfort food and it is no accident that one of her own inventions — cheesy weesy crunchy wunchy fishy wishy dishy — is one of her most popular dishes. Ingredients? Layers of cod, cheese bread crumbs and cheese and onion crisps. She can do you hot pears with Mars bar and

brandy sauce for afters. "None of that lobster thermidor stuff," she says, sitting in the spare room in her Victorian terraced house in Lewisham, South East London. It is now an office but it is also a fan's room — the walls are lined with cuttings of the bands she cooks for and her backstage passes from each show are on display. "My bands want basic food. I give them what they want."

Mouse is a trained chef who spent eight years working in restaurants in the City and Covent Garden. Last year she turned down five major contracts because she didn't think she could create the "tour family vibe" she likes. It is no coincidence that her mother does the accounts and her best friend, Grub, helps with cooking, and she insists that her success has "more to do with following my heart than my head."

However true that is, she should not overlook another quality: a certain sympathy for the dotier side of the self-obsessed rock scene. On tour she pins A Thought For The Day on the menu blackboard. "It's nice to be important, but more important to be nice," is one example. "Noel and Liam loved. All truly great people are known for what they gave, not for what they got." Noel even gave her his



Cat and Mouse: "I'm like their mum. I get the work because I treat rock stars like normal people. They don't want people flapping round them all the time."

never travels without Jaffa cakes, Marmite, Branston pickle, gravy browning, bumper packs of Resolve and scissors — for impromptu haircuts.

She happily trashes all the preconceptions you might have about fame-obsessed, arrogant pop stars (although when asked about pop stars and drugs she replies: "I'd rather not say. I'm too honest.") No, these boys are more like Cub Scouts on Mothering Sunday, she claims. When Noel Gallagher heard that Mouse's grandma was celebrating her 100th birthday, he immediately ordered two huge bouquets of roses — and has sent flowers from the band and crew every year since.

And there is more of this chummy stuff. The Stone Roses used to make cups of tea, and John Squire, their former guitarist and songwriter, once invited Mouse and Grub on an all-expenses paid holiday in Japan and when Keith, the scary looking one from the

Prodigy, has finished a gig he likes nothing better than to chill out with a long cool strawberry milkshake.

What about Liam Gallagher? "Well, Liam's just Liam, isn't he? Fame hasn't changed him. He's a character. He's unique. We have a brother and sister-type thing going. When he's annoying me I just tell him to shut up. It took him ages to say it but a few years ago he turned to me and said 'You're all right, you are.'"

"Some women caterers dream that a pop star will fall for them. It's happened, too, someone from Erasure went out with a caterer. But it's not for me."

"This summer is quiet. Her bands — 'My bands' as she calls them — are now so successful that they don't need to tour so much. She's compiling a list of the groups she likes and who she tips for success — The Aloof, Red Snapper, Travis, she reckons — and then she will start pitching for business. She has done what she set out to do: "All I ever wanted was this family thing. Me and my mates working for the bands we loved," but she can foresee a day when the music industry begins to pall.

What she would like to do next is run a soul therapy centre. So, when you see Liam and Noel heading down Lewisham High Street for a therapy session, you will know that Mouse has started her next project.



Beef pie for Meg and Noel Gallagher, chicken for Madonna



No parents? Let's party!

Bridget Harrison recalls many nights spent running riot in strange houses

The story of Nigel and Lorraine Carr will make parental blood everywhere run cold. The couple returned from a holiday in Tunisia with their 15-year-old son, Christopher, to find that a five-day riotous party had been held in their £250,000 house. Two youths had pressured Christopher into giving them his house keys and entrance security code, allowing dozens of teenagers to take over the property, cause £5,260 in damage, steal possessions worth £4,800 and ride around in their £20,000 BMW at 120mph until it broke down.

Equally, there will be thousands of teenagers for whom the story holds no surprise. Many will remember all the strange houses in which they have partyed. Others will think "Thank goodness I got away with it." For going to parties in other people's houses when parents are away is a fundamental part of teenage life. When you are too young to be served in a pub and can't afford nightclubs, family houses provide the ideal setting for revelry. Nothing beats a kitchen stocked with liquors provided by a parental drinks cabinet; doors that open into dark bedrooms ideal for snogging; and gardens in which you can hang out and smoke dope.

Most of my teenage years were spent marauding other people's houses. Although we all attended nice schools and had generous, loving parents, we would think nothing of descending on strange houses — usually uninvited. On Saturdays about 20 of us would gather outside Ealing Broadway station, waiting for word of that night's location. Someone's schoolfriend or neighbour would have a "free house". Often we had no idea who they were, but we went anyway.

On arrival, we would usually find an anxious girl on the doorstep, looking horrified at the sight of crowds of teenagers storming through her front door. Later she would be seen either sobbing on the stairs while revelers stumbled around her, or be blitzed out of her head in the kitchen sturring "Oh my God, my parents are going to kill me."

I have lost count of the number of strange living rooms I danced



Family houses provide the ideal setting for teenage revelry

in, imagining what the parents would do if they could see their front room just then. I have crammed into smart bathrooms with girlfriends to pamper myself with expensive, make-up and perfume arranged round the basin. I have been sick in weird loos, split red wine on pale carpets and eaten my way through dozens of fridges without a qualm.

We were not vandals or thugs, just teenagers on a Saturday night and that was what we did. We were at an age when the opportunity to do anything behind a parent's back gave us feelings of power, excitement and, believe it or not, maturity. We were all just as eager for the

moment when our own parents would deem us responsible enough to stay at home alone. In the year after O levels, my best friend, Lucy, persuaded her parents to leave her behind when they went on a weekend to the country. We began planning the moment the door closed behind them. Just a small gathering, we reasoned, to impress the coolest boys we knew.

While we waited, panicking that no one would turn up, Lucy's address was being broadcast around Ealing. At 9.30pm the house was silent, by 10pm it was carnage. When I pleaded with youths at the front door to go home, a bottle was hurled through a window. Drunk, the

boys inside grabbed ornaments and more bottles to chase the offenders away. A beer fight coated the kitchen, the banisters gave way and someone was sick over the sofa.

The next day could have been a scene out of the Yellow Pages advert, in which two teenagers desperately put their house back together before their parents return. It was a day that thousands of teenagers have experienced — finding the money to pay for 24-hour glaziers, cutting bits of wool from the corner of carpets and sticking them on to cigarette burns, searching for missing household items — and waiting for the sound of keys turning in the front door and parents calling "Hello darling, we're home."

It took precisely three minutes for Lucy's parents to work out what had happened. Lucy, in tears, confessed all, while her father raged that the house, his house, had been pillaged. He could not understand how we could have been foolish enough to open his doors to vandals and thugs. I had to explain our gross act of irresponsibility to my own parents to whom I had lied in order to spend the night at Lucy's. Ten years on, Lucy and I still bow our heads in shame whenever her father mentions That Party. But the next weekend we were out again, just thankful to be at a party in someone else's house.

Most of my friends at the time had "parties" from hell: sales of £5,000 in jewellery stolen from a dressing table, antique silver statues removed from a mantelpiece, furniture hurled through the roof of a neighbour's conservatory, a garden destroyed by spinning car wheels, a goldfish blown up in the microwave... But we would never give up.

Now that I have a house of my own, the idea of hundreds of unknown teenagers stampeding across my wooden floors and being sick in my swanky shower fills me with horror. But however much I insist that I would never be naive enough to trust my teenage children with an empty house, I suspect that this is one of those rites of passage there will be no way of stopping. For them, as it was for me, the temptation will be impossible to resist.

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Benefits of a South Sea bubble-burst

Anatole Kaletsky sees a silver lining in the cloud over Asia

The imminent collapse of government in the world's fourth most populous country suggests that financial markets are an irresistible force of nature, an elemental power which can break all political institutions like matchsticks, rather than a tidal wave sweeping through a flimsy shanty-town. The long-estimating dictator in Asia is being overthrown by a couple of months of financial speculation. A run on the Indonesian currency has done to President Suharto what Communist insurgents and countless casualties of ethnic warfare failed to achieve.

But why are the billions of dollars directed against Indonesia in financial speculation so infinitely more powerful than the tens of billions that President Suharto and other beleaguered Asian leaders have spent over the years on defending themselves? What does this mean for the ability of other nations and politicians to control their destinies?

The answer is "surprisingly little". The Asian crisis does not prove that financial markets are an all-powerful force, either for good or ill. On the contrary, it shows that financial markets are rather weak and easily deceived.

What Asia demonstrates is how readily some lucky politicians can abuse their power, deceive their countrymen and swindle international investors, simply by taking advantage of the weaknesses inherent in global financial markets.

For while there is no doubt that Indonesia and other Asian countries have been ruined by financial speculation, the speculation that really did the damage was not the panic selling of the past few months; it was the far more irrational speculative buying in the previous five years.

To say that the Asian economies and their governments have been wrecked by speculative selling is like saying that an inexperienced mountaineer who tries to climb the Matterhorn and falls to his death is murdered by the force of gravity. In every financial bubble, the real speculation — and the real damage — is done on the way up. That is when wages and property prices rise too fast, when corruption thrives, when factories and office buildings are constructed with no reasonable hope of earning adequate profits, when investors pour in their money without any idea of how it is going to be spent.

For some reason, perhaps connected with the natural guilt feelings of the rich and greedy, most analysis of the Asian crisis has concentrated on the role of Western bankers and investors in blowing up the Asian bubble. Yet while many of the criticisms of Western financial institutions are fully justified, the bigger culprits in this crisis were the Asian companies that recklessly borrowed Western money with no regard for the currency risks or the risks to their businesses and workers if the debts were ever called in. Worse still were the Asian politicians who pursued economic policies which encouraged their businessmen to behave in this suicidal way — and, above all, to continue investing in excess industrial capacity which had little chance of making a profit or even of repaying the debts with which it was financed.

Even to people who do not follow economic statistics, there were plenty of alarm bells ringing in Asia from the mid-1990s onwards — from Malaysia's decision to build the world's tallest skyscrapers to the price of Hong Kong flats or the statistical fantasy (still often repeated by many Western commentators) that China had overtaken such incomparably richer nations as Japan, Germany and Britain to become the second biggest economy in the world.

Asian politicians ignored these warnings and instead treated the speculation in Asian assets as a "vote of confidence" in their economic policies. Asian politicians and businessmen (two groups that are often indistinguishable) treated excessive and unprofitable investment as a boon for their economies, disregarding the millstone of debts they were taking on. The bubble allowed them to line their pockets at the expense of foreign investors without apparently hurting the poor.

The culprits were Asian firms that borrowed recklessly

Now this illusion of effortless riches, of victimless luxury, has suddenly been shattered. To undo the damage, almost every country in Asia will now have to go through a change of political regime. To restore their businesses, many Asian companies will have to cede control of their assets to Western investors and creditors. They will have to accept Western notions of profitability, and that in turn will mean less investment, higher unemployment and slower economic growth.

There are, however, a number of silver linings to the dark clouds over Asia, from both the Western and the Asian points of view. The Asian economies will still have the benefit of the modern factories and other physical assets built during the bubble period. On any reasonable economic analysis, many of these factories should never have been constructed, but now that they exist investors will buy them on the cheap. Indeed, the next victims of the Asian crisis will therefore be the workers and shareholders in European and American industries who will be put out of business by Korean car plants and Indonesian TV factories that never should have been built.

Once financial and political systems have been restructured, Western investors will flood back in — and this time they will not be short-sighted bankers or ignorant stock market analysts, but successful multinational companies, snapping up cheap and modern industrial plants. With much more openness to Western management and investment, Asia could even enjoy the kind of genuine economic miracle that American firms helped Western Europe to perform after 1945.

So, for what it is worth, here is this observer's tuppenceworth on the deficiencies of the whole set-up. The first unease began when lawyers for the memorial fund announced their intention — in a highly unusual application, currently still before the courts — of registering "graphical representation" rights in a series of images of Diana in a broad array of hairstyles and poses, so as to control all "exploitation" of her image. That, for me, brought the first queasy tremor: for if ever a girl was



Amazing gracelessness

The magazine *Private Eye* caused me to snort so violently with laughter the other week that I soaked the page in coffee. In a spoof report headed "It's what she would have wanted", it spoke with broadsheet pomposity of "factions, splits and bitter acrimony" within the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund and had its spokesman saying: "I think it is a mark of the fund's success that we have captured the spirit of her life at our meetings. They are full of tears, tantrums, wild accusations, half-baked ideas and broken marriages."

And over went the coffee cup. A cruel exaggeration, and short on reverence for the late Princess; but sometimes a brief black joke fulfils a real need, like a sneeze that clears your head. I suspect most people have a sense that there is something awry about this fund, and has been from the very beginning. Its atmosphere is wrong, its actions clumsy. Most of all, despite the involvement of decent people with strong connections to the Princess, it seems to have nothing to do with her or with the emotions that surrounded her death. The whole enterprise is weirdly skewed: it keeps missing the point and accidentally annoying people, then being comically wounded at the vehemence of their annoyance. It just feels wrong.

I have held my peace on the subject so far, because it seems graceless to squabble over a grave. It seemed possible that the fund would get its balance eventually, or have the brains to wind itself up on the anniversary of her death. But the kind blind eye has its limits: yesterday's "summit" on the fund's future, coupled with its new US lawsuit, Earl Spencer's attack, the disagreements between trustees and the news of 1,000 pending sponsorship deals, all indicate that the issue will be with us for a while yet.

So, for what it is worth, here is this observer's tuppenceworth on the deficiencies of the whole set-up. The first unease began when lawyers for the memorial fund announced their intention — in a highly unusual application, currently still before the courts — of registering "graphical representation" rights in a series of images of Diana in a broad array of hairstyles and poses, so as to control all "exploitation" of her image. That, for me, brought the first queasy tremor: for if ever a girl was

generous with her image, it was the late Princess of Wales. She may have fled the paparazzi and taken a Peeping Tom to law, but during her straightforward public appearances she made dazzlingly free with her smiles and her "magic". Diana gave very, very good royal value. She paused on walkabouts to look straight into a child's plastic camera, slowed down so that patient crowds at a premiere could take in the details of her dress, and assisted her charities by posing carefully with a landmine victim or — in the days when there was superstitious dread of her — touching the hand of an AIDS patient. One of the silliest things said about her recently has been that she lacked a sense of duty. The fact is that despite early shyness and later unhappiness, she faithfully did her job by showing a smiling face to cheer up ordinary, unassuming people: people who just happen to enjoy looking at a pretty Princess and saying "bless her".

The fund that bears the Princess's name is a bossy money-factory we can do without

More privately, there are stories — with pictorial proof — of Diana posing happily with casually met children on holiday so that they too had their souvenir, their treasured moment of naff, harmless, charming princess-magic. She of all people would have understood the point of the sappy shrines and poems and pinned-up pictures on the park railings of last September. She would not, I think, have minded being claimed by simple people in this simple way.

It is hard to reconcile this side of the Princess with the present spectacle of tight-lipped, tight-fisted lawyers trying to work out a way of "exploiting and policing rights" in her likeness, as they put it, and copyrighting her image as if she were Mickey Mouse. When the Disney Corporation or the owners of the Thomas the Tank Engine brand assert their rights against a local fete or children's mural to "protect their intellectual property", we expect no better: they are basically just traders. When

the memorial fund tries to ring-fence the gentle, sentimental memory of Diana, we squirm. Something in us, something embarrassingly uncynical, protests that actually she was not a piece of commercial property. She was a public servant and she knew it: even at her wedding she chose a hymn which vowed to her country the service of her love. The nation — her nation, anyway — thought that she really loved it.

It should not be up to cold lawyers to say which revoking pictorial scalloped wall-plates should be permitted to her devotees. They say they do not want her image "degraded", but if the Roman Catholic Church can cope with centuries of garish Neapolitan statues, Lord Nelson with 200 years as a toby jug, and Marilyn Monroe with 100 lookalike drag artists, to enforce tastefulness on the Diana cult alone seems excessively zealous.

Libby Purves

When the purple "Diana" signature was developed as a logo, there was more quiet squinting. There must be hundreds of people who treasure kind, sympathetic, personal letters from the real Diana with that signature on them: I have met a couple, and both were inarticulately distressed by its presence on the side of margarine tubs. As for the scratchcards — a gaming medium which notoriously exploits the depressed and the desperate — the fund's inability to see why that offended people beggars belief.

The counter to all this will always be Anthony Julius's answer: that "it's not a decision which takes more than a second to reach" because the use of the logo brings money to "the cancer patients, the homeless, the sick children, those afflicted by leprosy". In other words, the gathering of money for today's commercially hard-headed charities excuses more or less anything. Some take this further and argue that the Princess of Wales was herself a charity fundraiser, and would have approved.

But here again there is a mismatch between the human Diana and the corporate hawkishness of the fund which seeks to replace her. At the risk of setting the Social Affairs Unit off again, I nervously proffer the view that there was something genuine and even precious in last September's mourning.

The people who waited for hours to sign condolence books or sat moping around candles did annoy a harder-headed tendency. But it is undeniable that on the streets during that time, strangers talked to one another in an unprecedented way, confiding their private bereavements and disappointments and, curiously, comforting each other.

Time for heritage to go Dutch

For Marcus Binney old buildings need care, not restoration

Today English Heritage launches a new Buildings At Risk Strategy with a register of 1,500 Grade I and II* listed buildings that are a serious cause for concern. With this, Sir Jocelyn Stevens, the EH chairman, switches his organisation into proactive mode. Instead of waiting for applications to demolish to land on the desks of his officials, he is putting the spotlight on decaying buildings, in the hope of securing action before the case for demolition becomes overwhelming.

Other organisations — such as the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, Save Britain's Heritage and The Civic Trust for Scotland — have been doing this for years. EH's involvement matters because it is the Government's official adviser on heritage. It can get repair orders served, followed if necessary by compulsory purchase.

In many places, the demand for old buildings to restore exceeds the available supply. The spotlight of publicity repeatedly prompts owners either to repair decayed historic buildings or to offer them for sale. If in some cases grants are necessary, this is usually because even basic maintenance has been neglected. As a result, tens of thousands of pounds are needed where hundreds would have sufficed just a few years before.

Time for heritage to go Dutch

For Marcus Binney old buildings need care, not restoration

Most repair crises stem from failure to carry out routine jobs, such as clearing gutters and unblocking downpipes. It takes only a few rotting leaves, a dead bird or a tennis ball to block the top of a downpipe, causing the gutter to overflow. The telltale sign is green mould, showing that a wall is damp. As walls become sodden, damp gets into the roof timbers and rot begins — many empty houses are boarded up or left unventilated — and stale, damp air is the perfect breeding ground for dry rot. It is much better for windows to be lapping in the wind, even if a few pigeons are roosting inside.

If we are to solve the problem of decay, we must master the chore of routine maintenance rather than finance high-profile programmes of restoration. "Drips come suddenly and do great damage," said Sir Christopher Wren. "Stave off decay by daily care," wrote William Morris. This need was clearly recognised when the three Historic Buildings Councils for England, Scotland and Wales were set up in 1953 to provide the first grants for outstanding historic buildings. The councils were established after a report by the great Sir Ernest Gowers (of the *Plain Words*). The Gowers report focused on the plight of great country houses requisitioned for war use. To Gowers and his colleagues, it was clear that only substantial grant aid could avert large-scale loss in 1955. One substantial country house was demolished every five days.

Gowers was canny enough to recognise how much damage accumulated from simple failure to replace slipped slates, and the three HBCs were given powers to aid both maintenance and repair. But the new bodies had limited funds, and the Civil Service principle of "mustn't open the floodgates" operated. Money for maintenance was refused, a position held steadfastly ever since.

Contrast the situation in Holland, where, in a modern-day version of Rembrandt's *Night Watch*, they have set up the *Monumentenwacht* (Monument Watch), which is as important and inspiring a preservation model as our own National Trust. The Monument Watch has a branch, run by a pair of skilled operatives, in each Dutch province. Each pair has a van stocked with slates, tiles and roof lead, a tool kit and a set of ladders.

Owners of historic buildings take out a modest annual subscription to the Watch and pay for regular inspection visits on an hourly basis. An old lady with a cottage might pay less than £100 for a couple of hours, while a large town church might require a three-day stint.

While at the building, the Watch do not just write reports. They do the basic maintenance tasks, climbing ladders to clear gutters, fixing missing tiles, going into the roof-space to look for damp, worm, beetle or rot, and emerging through hatches to look at the roof leads and gutters hidden behind parapets. Having bagged up the debris and taken it away, they leave a list of essential tasks. If the owner repeatedly fails, year on year, to do these, they may eventually say goodbye. But most owners are delighted with the system.

In winter, when bad weather makes it difficult to work outside, they make roof-access ladders which they can leave in the lofts of large houses and churches. Some roofs are too high to reach by ladders and, given the hideous expense of scaffolding, the Watch have developed an alternative system of placing harness hooks so that they can work their way along a roof in climbing equipment. All this sounds like elementary common sense, but it is proving a tough battle to set up a pilot watch in Britain. Maybe there are too many people with a vested interest in large-scale restoration work. It also challenges an entrenched official culture. But if anyone can blast the Culture Secretary Chris Smith's mandarins into action, it is Sir Jocelyn Stevens.

Quick sale

DAMON HILL'S speed round the track is unquestioned but members of his family are apparently disturbed that heirlooms belonging to Graham, his world champion father, are being sold off a little hastily. The memory of the great Graham Hill, twice Formula One champion in the 1960s, has been treasured by his family and fans since the tragic plane crash which claimed his life in 1975. Next month a Griffin helmet and the last racing suit worn by Graham will be put under the hammer at Brooks, with the two items expected to fetch more than £10,000. The vendor, to the surprise of at least one family member, is Bette Hill, Graham's widow. "All the family chose items of Graham's to cherish after his death. These pieces belong to me. I was going through some of his things and decided it was time to sell. I had their full approval."

But Brigitte Hill, Damon's sister and former agent (both pictured with their father), says: "I didn't know who the vendor was at first but now I know it is my mother. We do generally talk about these things because it is our heritage." A family rift may be in store, suggested a big hammer at Brooks: "It can be very traumatic when property belonging to individuals is sold without the agreement of the whole family. There is a great historical value attached to these items."

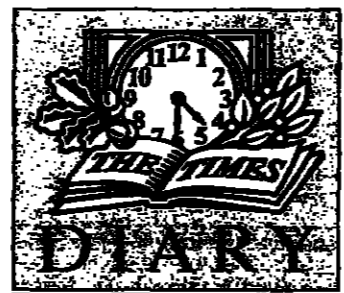
WHAT is the record paid for World Cup tickets? I ask because



at a charity auction the other night, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare flogged two final tickets for £17,500, and tickets for Scotland-Brazil raised £9,000.

Lording it

HAVING chided Michael Heseltine for buying his own furniture, Alan Clark seems keen to buy his own title. Clark was disappointed to have missed the chance to buy the title of Lord of the Manor of



Saltwood (where he has his Kent castle). "It went for £10,000 and he offered £20,000 afterwards," says Robert Smith of Manorial Auctioneers. But now Clark has a second chance. The Lordship of Kensington (yet another of these silly titles) is to come under the hammer, and Smith expects a bid from Clark as he is now the local MP. Still, at up to £60,000, one could buy an awful lot of furniture.

RICHARD HARRIS might as well have a few more drinks at the bar while he waits for his knighthood. The Queen, I fear, is unlikely to be too impressed by this latest outburst from the thirsty old actor. "I wouldn't accept anything less than an earldom," he announces breezily. "I have no interest in joining mediocre nonentities such as Sir Derek Jacobi and Sir Cliff Richard. I don't understand why

Sean Connery is upset about not getting a knighthood."

All change

THE broadness of Blair's babes is irritating less fellow colleagues. Ruth Kelly, MP, tipped to become the first female Chancellor, is pregnant again barely a year after giving birth. Kelly has received a baby-friendly office replete with en-suite bathroom, a modified wooden bath for changing nappies, and a fridge. "I certainly got special treatment," Kelly says.



With another five Labour ladies expecting, some MPs fear they will be bumped out of their offices to make way for baby suites. Ann Widdecombe is cross: "There are already plenty of rooms in the Commons to change nappies."

HER Majesty must be keenly looking forward to some jolly sing-alongs with the Emperor of Japan. He loves playing the cello, while the Empress Michiko tinkles the ivories with some dash. For light relief the couple enjoy composing waka (a form of classical Japanese poetry) dating back to the 8th century. Lucky Prince Philip.

Lost the plot

IT IS with some relief that I can assure readers that they will be able to enjoy the delectable Anna Friel in a forthcoming movie, *Stringer*. But it could so easily have ended in disaster after two tapes were stolen on location in Russia. Paul Pawlikowski, the director, was forced to return to Russia to recreate scenes. Then, when he tried to leave Moscow, he found his passport had gone the same way. After frantic negotiations with embassy officials, he fled the inhospitable city. All this after the film negatives had been held in Poland for six months over a contractual



Russian roulette: Anna Friel

wrangle. Now Ms Friel, who brought lesbianism to soap opera, is to be seen in all her glory, and Diary Towers eagerly awaits.

LORD HOLLICK, sacker-in-chief at *The Express*, has inadvertently created a new career for one of his departing charges. His able executive, the biscuit heir Mark Palmer, who is off soon, has made so many leaving speeches for colleagues that he has been offered a job as an after-dinner speaker.

JASPER GERARD

LINES IN THE...
TO SIBERIA
OFFICIAL SI
The Government

مكتبة من الأصل



LINES IN THE SAND

The arms-to-Africa inquiry should take place in public

Yesterday's formal confirmation that "even though offences may have been committed", Sandline International is not to be prosecuted for breaches of UK or international law...

Thursday's testimony to a Commons committee by Sir John Kerr, his Permanent Secretary, that Sandline's director "regularly rang the FO" to tell officials what was going on in Sierra Leone...

If it was possible for Mr Cook to offer details of the January 19 meeting, why could he not also have ended the comedy of errors about what Tony Lloyd, the Minister for Africa, knew when he addressed the Commons on March 12?

Some pre-emptive candour is the more necessary because Mr Cook has refused the judge-led inquiry with public hearings that the Opposition has demanded. Mr Cook gave two reasons for this decision. His first, which is that Sir Thomas Legg's investigation will be much speedier, is defensible and would be more so had he said anything about an expected timeframe...

New strategy to save old buildings

From the Secretary of Save Britain's Heritage and others

Sir, On May 19 English Heritage launches a new strategy aimed at highlighting and tackling the plight of thousands of historic buildings in need of repair. We warmly welcome this initiative.

Attitudes towards historic buildings have changed dramatically since the large-scale demolition of our high streets in the 1960s - such wilful acts would be inconceivable now. But it is dangerously complacent to think that the very success of the conservation movement over the last 30 years has eradicated the threat to the nation's historic buildings.

The repair and re-use of historic buildings is an integral part of urban and rural regeneration, helping to create attractive places to live and work and to maintain balanced local communities and a diverse mix of uses. It is about sustainability and the re-use of non-renewable resources.

However, grants available for repair continue to shrink: English Heritage has had its core funding cut; local authority grants, where they existed at all, have dwindled; and the budget of the once hailed saviour, the Heritage Lottery Fund, has been curtailed.

Conservation is not exclusive. It is about creating a better environment for all. The conservation of historic buildings must be a vital element in planning for a sustainable future.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD POLLARD, Secretary, Save Britain's Heritage. MALCOLM AIRS, Chairman, Institute of Historic Building Conservation. NEIL BURTON, Secretary, The Georgian Group. DEBBIE DANCE, Chairman, Association of Preservation Trusts. GILLIAN DARLEY, Chairman, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. WILLIAM FILMER-SANKEY, Director, The Victorian Society. MICHAEL GWILLIAM, Director, The Civic Trust. KENNETH POWELL, Director, The Twentieth Century Society. MATTHEW SAUNDERS, Secretary, Ancient Monuments Society. HILARY WEIR, Secretary, The Architectural Heritage Fund, 77 Cowcross Street, EC1M 6BP. May 18.

Police powers to pick up truants

From Mr Ben Whitney

Sir, Welcome though the Government's initiatives on truancy and exclusion are (report and leading article, May 11), they are hardly original and, in places, they are distinctly muddled. Giving more powers to the police to return disruptive pupils immediately to school might increase the risk of their immediate exclusion unless the child's problems are actually dealt with.

Most LEAs are aware that many children stopped in "truancy patrols" are not truanting at all but off sick, kept away by their parents or permanently excluded by their schools, with perhaps no other school willing to take them. Computers help the administration but do not change attitudes. Parenting orders will not help where it is the child rather than the parent who is the focus of concern.

Most change is brought about through patient pastoral work. This is, unfortunately, made much more difficult by a climate of competition rather than co-operation between schools and by the drastic shortage of professionals with enough time.

When an education welfare officer has 3,000 children in 25 different schools on their patch and the pastoral-year head has a full teaching timetable as well, there is no time for anything but responding to crises.

Yours faithfully, BEN WHITNEY (Specialist education welfare officer), 47 Manor Farm Crescent, Stafford ST17 9JN. May 11.

From Mrs Kathryn Gynnell

Sir, In his article of May 11, "Children on streets that lead nowhere", Peter Mandelson told us that the saddest statistic of all was that children in care - where the State is the parent - are ten times more likely to be truants. Who, I wonder, does he propose to put

in the dock on behalf of these children?

If, as you report today, more children are going to end up in care as a result of the Government's truancy policies, then don't we risk having a Government that spends more time sitting in court than in Parliament?

Yours sincerely, KATHRYN GYNELL, 57 Oakley Street, SW3 5HB. May 12.

From Mr Anthony G. Phillips

Sir, Tough on truancy but not tough on the causes of truancy. Forcing youngsters back into school without finding why they bunk off is bound to lead to more disruption, distress, bullying and suicides.

Is that really what the Government wants?

Yours faithfully, ANTHONY G. PHILLIPS, 32 Upper Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 8LY. May 11.

From Lady Moorea Black, JP

Sir, In France, when parents are on benefit, a system is used which cuts down the failure of children to attend school quite effectively.

After an inspector has checked that there is no valid reason for a child's absence, a portion of the family benefit is deducted at source until the child returns to school. This procedure, as you may well imagine, has obtained quick results, thereby avoiding long court proceedings with, of course, the added advantage that the children return to school much earlier.

It occurred to me that this might well be more effective than the police rounding up children in the streets.

Yours faithfully, MOOREA BLACK, 17 Lansdowne Walk, W11 3AH. brinsley@aol.com May 11.

Health hazards

From Professor Sir Kenneth Stuart

Sir, Boxing and passive smoking present entirely different health threats, but share some important common features. Their effects could be readily eliminated or significantly reduced by appropriate legislation: there is a considerable public lobby against both of them; and they are characterised by legal inaction when all the known facts about them call for action.

Legislation against boxing would, of course, be easy. Against passive smoking it would be more difficult because of the variable levels to which the public may be exposed. There are extremes of exposure, however, which cannot be ignored.

The average pub is such an extreme. There can be few locations where larger numbers of people are exposed for longer periods to higher levels of passive smoking. In numerical terms their contribution to the health consequences of passive smoking must be enormous.

Further delay in legislation about boxing and passive smoking in the face of irrefutable information about them would be an abdication of governmental responsibility for safeguarding the public health.

Yours truly, KENNETH STUART, 3 The Garth, Cobham, Surrey KT11 2DZ. May 16.

Value of translations

From Mr Bernard Adams

Sir, Some seven years ago I gave up a career in schoolmastering to devote myself to the translation of Hungarian literature. There is no shortage of good prose works in Hungarian that have either never been translated, or have only been done badly or a long time ago. I have produced versions of several novels, and have begun to be published and to be offered commissions.

I suspect, however, that I would have had more published had not publishers been so deeply concerned over their profit margins. I know that publishers have to eat; but the cry that translations do not sell is balanced by the counter-claim that if they are not printed they cannot be sold.

If bodies such as the Arts Council

Israel's security

From Dr John Slome

Sir, I am surprised that Mr A. S. Khalidi, a senior associate member of an Oxford college, is so out of touch with Middle East realities (letter, May 14). If, as he writes, "Mr Netanyahu does not believe in mutually and equal rights", then surely the Israeli Prime Minister is an ideal leader in the Middle East, because no government in the Middle East believes in "mutuality and equal rights".

During the Gulf War, the 40,000 Palestinian refugees in Kuwait, loyal citizens for over 40 years and of great benefit to the Kuwaiti economy, were thrown out, having never been given the opportunity for citizenship. Similarly in the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian inhabitants living under Egyptian rule for 19 years were denied citizenship; and similarly in every other Islamic Arab state where Palestinians resided.

Bearing in mind the shortage of democracies among the sovereign states in the Middle East, Mr Khalidi would serve his co-religionists far better if he directed his concern for human rights at the governments of all Middle East states. It is precisely because Israel is surrounded by dictatorships that every square metre given to PLO control (another dictatorship) is a threat to Israel's security.

Yours faithfully, J. SLOME, 146 Walm Lane, NW2 4RU. May 15.

To be demolished

From Mr Andrew Hamilton

Sir, On September 19, 1969, you kindly published my letter expressing dismay that a Georgian building, No 144 Piccadilly, could be demolished to build the new Intercontinental Hotel - a building of singular architectural mediocrity.

I now read that the few remaining historic buildings at the southern end of Park Lane, including the house in which Disraeli died, may be redeveloped to provide new offices and flats (report, April 30). These are to be designed by Sir Michael Hopkins.

Surely, at the end of the 20th century, our limited remaining stock of Georgian and Regency buildings should be sacrosanct, and Sir Michael encouraged to replace some of the dreary postwar buildings around Hyde Park.

Yours faithfully, ANDREW HAMILTON, 8 Canlyle Square, SW3 6EX. May 11.

Blasphemy laws

From the General Secretary of the National Secular Society

Sir, The horrific events in Pakistan following the conviction of a young Christian for blasphemy (leading article, May 11; letters, May 14) should be a salutary reminder that, although blasphemy may no longer be a capital offence in this country, it remains a criminal offence with substantial penalties.

Nor should we assume that these laws are a dead duck. Early in 1997 an abortive attempt was made to prosecute the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement because it was suspected of publishing a blasphemous poem on the Internet - the very same poem which resulted in Gay News and its editor being convicted of blasphemy in 1977. The Crown Prosecution Service said that it would have been willing to bring charges if there had been more evidence.

Experience is increasingly showing that it is people who need protecting from religion rather than the other way round. As the Law Commission has recommended, Parliament should now act to remove these repressive laws before zealots claim another victim.

Yours faithfully, KEITH PORTOUS WOOD, General Secretary, National Secular Society, 25 Red Lion Square, WC1R 4RL. May 14.

Never heard of him?

From Mr Peter Moss

Sir, I remember my local Catholic priest explaining to me, with tears of laughter running down his face, how he had tried to persuade the Pipe family that they ought not to christen their baby son Duane (letters, May 14 and 18).

Yours faithfully, PETER MOSS, 24 Quaggy Walk, Blackheath, SE3 9EJ. May 14.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

and the British Council wish to assist British writers engaged in literary translation (especially in fields such as mine, where authors are not household names) - as was recently suggested in these columns (letter, April 28) - would not their money be better spent in encouragement by subsidy at publisher level?

More could be done for foreign writers, too, by translating their work and making it available in print to the anglophone world than by inviting them here to lecture. The printed word reaches a far wider audience and leaves a more permanent impression. And, of course, the dead cannot lecture.

Yours faithfully, BERNARD ADAMS, Dalgarreg, Orchard Street, Brecon, Powys LD3 8AN. May 18.

Legal costs

From Mr Barry Davis

Sir, Mr Geoff Hoon, junior Minister at the Lord Chancellor's Department (report, April 30; see also letters, May 13), believes that it is "equally legitimate" to compare what lawyers are paid by the State with other workers, such as hospital consultants whose pay ranges from £56,470 to £59,039.

The legitimacy of the comparison is unlikely to equal anything very significant until hospital consultants are required to pay the rent of the hospital and the nurses' salaries out of the payments they receive, as solicitors do with their comparable overheads.

Yours faithfully, BARRY DAVIS (solicitor), 5 Vicarage Drive, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN20 8AR. barry@katedavis@msn.com May 4.

Ethics of India's nuclear tests

From Dr S. A. Durrani

Sir, India blatantly explodes five nuclear devices and vows to develop nuclear weaponry (letters, May 14 and 16).

In the spring of 1974 I spent some months in Islamabad as an adviser to the newly appointed chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission. I expressed my view to the commission that developing a nuclear weapons programme would be undesirable ethically as well as dangerous. Barely had I returned to the UK when India's first nuclear explosion occurred in May 1974.

A few weeks later, at a research laboratory in Paris, a senior Indian scientist dropped in for a visit. My French colleagues and I questioned him about the explosion. He said it had been "to melt the oil-bearing strata of the Rajasthan desert"; everyone burst out laughing.

Seven years later, the same scientist met me at a science conference in Bristol. He asked me why Pakistan was developing its own nuclear programme, "when you were so critical of India in 1974".

I reminded him that Newton's Third Law states that action and reaction are equal and opposite. He replied that he was "only a clever answer".

After all these years, are we about to witness a further proof of Newton's Third Law?

Yours faithfully, SAEED A. DURRANI (Director, Atomic Energy Centre, Lahore, 1963-67), 3 Selly Close, Selly Park, Birmingham B29 7JG. s.a.durrani@btam.ac.uk May 16.

English usage

From Mr Richard Goddard

Sir, A little while ago you published some letters featuring English punning on French words and phrases (March 30; April 4 and 11). Fellow readers might be amused to learn that examples of a contrary trend are beginning to appear across the Channel.

In Paris I recently spotted a gentleman's outfitters operating under a shopfront bearing the legend, "Homme Sweet Homme", whilst in an adjacent street was a central heating specialist, graced by the title, "Good Chaud".

Not all such attempts are quite so felicitous: a shop selling trainers in Alencon describes itself defiantly as "The Athlete's Foot".

Yours faithfully, R. S. GODDARD, Secretary's Flat, Regatta Headquarters, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 2LY. May 15.

Flight of fancy

From Mr Terence Wisdom

Sir, May I correct the inference in the headline of Joanna Hunter's interesting article on archery, "William Tell? That was nothing" (Sport, May 11). William Tell, man or myth, was a crossbowman of Switzerland and has little, if anything, to do with the longbowmen who shaped the medieval history of these islands.

Kenneth Hare, editor of The Archer's Chronicle and Greenwood Companion (Williams and Norgate, London, 1929) records the old proverb: "England not worth a fling, but for the crooked yew and grey goose wing". Our man, or myth, of the bow was Robin Hood.

Yours faithfully, TERENCE WISDOM, 61 Blacketts Wood Drive, Chorleywood, Hertfordshire WD3 5PY. May 11.

Light cavalry

From Mr Michael Forsyth

Sir, "As the 440 cavalymen reached the enemy they were riding at about 20 miles an hour. With an average man-and-horse weight of 20 stone, the shock effect on the Derivishes was tremendous" ("Tragic last despatch from Times war reporter", May 14).

The Derivishes would indeed have been shocked to find themselves being charged by 440 emaciated men on skeletal horses, each weighing about as much as a young child on a small pony.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL FORSYTH, Chestnut Cottage, Liberty Avenue, Merton Abbey, SW19 2RN. May 15.

Shades of difference

From Mr L. P. Rowley

Sir, The Government's concern over the high price of sun-protection creams (report, May 12) may be good news for southern baskers, but here in Leeds we'd appreciate cheaper umbrellas.

Yours faithfully, L. P. ROWLEY, 12 Red Hall Green, Leeds LS14 1EA. May 12.

TO SIBERIA AND BACK

Lebed's new strategy to win the Kremlin

General Aleksandr Lebed, the gravel-voiced former paratrooper, made a successful drop far behind enemy lines at the weekend, capturing the vast Siberian territory of Krasnoyarsk from the Kremlin-backed governor and establishing a bridgehead for his assault on the Russian presidency in 2000. The extraordinary comeback for the charismatic general, sacked 18 months ago from his post as National Security Adviser, re-establishes him as a serious contender in the race to succeed President Yeltsin.

His election gives him an area four times the size of France, renewed media attention and the backing of millions of Russians who see him as the only outsider who can now take on the Moscow establishment. But will his exile to a remote, mineral-rich area known only for its strategic air defence radar give him the necessary political experience from which to launch a national campaign? Or will it grind down a man who now joins other Kremlin dissidents such as former Vice-President Rutskoi and Vasily Starodubtsev, a leader of the coup against Mikhail Gorbachev, in ruling Russia's 89 largely autonomous regions?

Mr Lebed made no secret of his presidential ambitions during the campaign. But on election he insisted that he would devote himself to the problems of his new constituency. They are formidable. Krasnoyarsk is poor, distant and neglected. Its military importance has diminished, and the concentration of troops means that the problems of the army - the abysmal conditions of service, payment arrears and low morale - have a significant local influence. The area is rich in minerals but, like most of Siberia, this promise of future wealth is doomed to

remain unfulfilled as long as the overwhelming bulk of foreign investment goes to Moscow and the populated west of Russia.

Mr Lebed's enemies are hoping that he will fall on his face in Krasnoyarsk. They will now be ruthless in their attempts to isolate and undermine him. This might, however, be their undoing. The more Mr Lebed is able to portray himself as the champion of the downtrodden provinces, the more willing to take on the entrenched interests of the Kremlin and its rich business friends, the more popular backing he will receive. Russia has had too few democratic elections to show whether running against Moscow is as popular as running against Washington has proved to be in America. But every poll shows the dislike of the pampered capital, the anger at the Government's torpor and the hatred of corruption and the inequalities that the market reforms have brought.

Just as Mr Yeltsin drew popularity from Mr Gorbachev's attempts to sideline him, so Mr Lebed may be strengthened by an anti-Lebed campaign. He has matured notably in the time since his dismissal. He retains a reputation as a man of action, who prevented civil war in Moldova and brokered the popular but difficult Russian disengagement in Chechnya. At 48 he is young enough to be identified with the post-Communist revolution and has already incurred the suspicion of the old hardline Communists. He must now use his national visibility, political contacts and media skills to attract money, foreign investment and talent to Siberia. With solid local backing, he could come back from the cold in two years' time to lay successful siege to the Kremlin.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

The Government should repair its sins of omission

Readers used to finding news stories in the first dozen or so pages of The Times may have been surprised today to stumble upon a "statement" in the names of Lord Avebury, Abass Bundu, Omrie Golley and Terrence Terry. While happy to correct mistakes in its reporting, The Times is not in the habit of publishing other people's press releases as though they were news. We are in the curious position of doing so today as a result of two sins of omission by the Government.

The complainants were defamed in a letter written by President Kabbah of Sierra Leone to Tony Blair. This letter was released by Mr Blair's press secretary, Alastair Campbell, to journalists on May 12. Because it appeared to us as a significant document of record, we decided to publish its contents more or less in full. Other newspapers quoted only extracts. To publish a document written by the elected head of a Commonwealth state and widely disseminated on the British Prime Minister's behalf by Mr Campbell now seems to have been a fault.

At the time of issue, the press secretary claimed that the Government supported the bulk of the letter, disagreeing only with Dr Kabbah's interpretation of a UN Security Council resolution. Later, however, a government minister directly contradicted this. In reply to a question from Lord Avebury in asking about the defamatory passages in the letter, Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean said: "The Prime Minister's spokesman's briefing... made clear that Her Majesty's Government could not associate with some parts of the letter, including the part to which the noble Lord referred. I can confirm

that the Government do not associate themselves with that letter nor with the defamatory comments about the noble Lord or any other persons mentioned in that context."

We stand by our claim that Mr Campbell failed to dissociate himself from those passages in Dr Kabbah's letter, and that this failure led us to publish it in good faith. The Government's second sin of omission, however, has compounded the first. Nearly two years ago, the 1996 Defamation Act was passed to reform the laws of libel. Under the Act, newspapers that publish fair and accurate copies or extracts of documents from governments or legislatures anywhere in the world cannot be sued for libel unless it can be shown that they acted from malice. This updates the old 1952 Act, which covered only Commonwealth countries, neglecting the EU, and which also made such reports subject to "explanation or contradiction": in other words, newspapers could be forced to carry rebuttals drafted by the complainants themselves.

Although the new Act was passed in 1996, the most important sections of it are not yet in force. That explains the statement on page 10. All that the Lord Chancellor needs to do is issue guidance to High Court judges and announce that the provisions now apply. He has failed to do so yet.

Had the new Act been wholly implemented, we would still have offered the complainants a right to reply on our letters pages. Thanks to a dissembling and dilatory Government, readers have instead to be presented with the journalistic curiosity on page 10 today.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE May 18: The Queen, Patron, Royal Horticultural Society, and the Duke of Edinburgh...

Chelsea Flower Show Steely angel with a heart of flowers

By ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

IN SOME years at the Chelsea Flower Show the gardens take centre stage. This year it is the turn of the floral exhibits in the great marquee...

exhibit features alpines planted in antique stone troughs (some weighing one tonne) on loan from Ness Botanic Gardens...

Redruth, Cornwall. The six cultivars, in pink, red, blue or purple, all have white-edged flowers which, it is thought, have never been seen in hydrangeas before...

Forthcoming marriages

Mr W.M. de la Hay and Miss R.M.E. Walker The engagement is announced between William, eldest son of Mr and Mrs David de la Hay...

Marriages

General Sir Desmond Fitzpatrick and Mrs L. Errington The marriage of General Sir Desmond Fitzpatrick and Mrs Lettice Errington, widow of Major George Errington...

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as president, will attend the Association for Schools' Science, Engineering and Technology annual conference at the IBM Conference Centre...

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Dame Nellie Melba, soprano, Richmond, near Melbourne, Victoria, 1879; Dr Chi Minh, President of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam 1954-69...

Today's birthdays

Professor John Ball, FRS, mathematician, 50; Lord Bovey, 55; Mr Esmond Bulmer, chairman, H.P. Bulmer Holdings, 63; Dr Edward de Bono, lateral thinker, 65; Mrs Justice Ewington, 61; Mr James Fox, actor, 59; Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, 49; Hyacinth-Rose, 90; Mr David Jacobs, broadcaster, 72; Mr Justice Judge, 57; Air Chief Marshal Sir Thomas Kennedy, Lord-Lieutenant of Rutland, 70; Mr Robert Kirby-Silk, broadcaster and former MP, 56; Mr Roger Laughton, director, United Broadcasting and Entertainment, 56; Mr John Lyndon, trade unionist, 72; Mr Michael McGowan, MEP, 35; Mrs Rosalind Maddock, 53; Mr Noel Mander, organ builder, 86; Sir Edward Parkes, former Vice-Chancellor, Leeds University, 72; The Earl of Pembroke, 59; Dr Marc Peraz, OM, CBE, FRS, molecular biologist, 64; The Earl of Pwllheli, 46; Sir Michael Scott, former diplomat, 75; Professor Gordon Stone, FRS, chemist, 73; Mr Pete Townsend, guitarist and singer, 53; Mr Stephen Varcoe, baritone, 49; Mr

Dinners

Lord High Commissioner Lord Hogg of Cumbernauld, Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and Lady Hogg gave a dinner last night at the Palace of Holyroodhouse...

Luncheons

Mr Howard Davies, Chairman of the Financial Services Authority, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Canada-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce held yesterday at the Victoria Hall...

Sherborne School

The following awards have been made at Sherborne School: Scholarships: John Harvey (Top), Sherborne Preparatory School; Edward Foster (Second), Sherborne Preparatory School...

Alton College

The Right Hon Mrs Virginia Bottomley, MP, delivered the Alton College Foundation lecture on May 15 at the college. Kellie Shapland presided; John Lush introduced the speaker, and Geoffrey Jiles proposed the vote of thanks.

University news

Oxford: Oriol College. Mr Daniel Geron (law, formerly of Mill Hill School, London, has been elected to an exhibition from Trinity Term 1998.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS: APRIL - On Friday May 15th at 12.15pm at the Portland Hospital, a beautiful daughter, Olivia Grace.

DEATHS: Mrs Joan Mary Jones, 78, of 12, The Grange, Bournemouth, died on May 17th 1998.

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Various small advertisements including 'PERSONAL', 'ALL TICKETS', 'CORPORATE REALTY', 'LIGHT SELECT', 'FOR SALE', 'WANTED', 'PRINCESS DIANA AUTOGRAPHS WANTED', and 'TRADE'.

OBITUARIES

MAJOR SIR PATRICK WALL

Major Sir Patrick Wall, MC, Conservative MP for Haltemprice and later for Beverley from 1954 to 1987, died on May 15 aged 81. He was born on October 14, 1916.



Wall: private virtues of bravery and patriotism sometimes led him into uncompromising views on the menace from communism

Throughout his 33 years in the House of Commons, Patrick Wall was possibly its most right-wing Member. His often worried-looking face reflected the intensity of his views about the deterioration of his country's traditional values and his fear for the apocalypse to come unless the tide of communism could be reversed. In private he was sustained by his Roman Catholic faith and his public views represented an extreme version of the traditional virtues of patriotism and bravery instilled in him by the other great force in his life, the Royal Marines.

Though some of his opinions embarrassed his party leaders, nobody doubted his personal courage. In war he was awarded the Military Cross and in peace he persisted in stating his views uncompromisingly in the Commons and taking them to predictably hostile audiences in universities and polytechnics up and down the country. During his speeches to students eggs and tomatoes splattered him, microphones were torn from his hands, he was sprayed by fire extinguishers and on one occasion his wife Sheila was trampled after she had been thrown to the ground.

Patrick Henry Bligh Wall went to Ampleforth after which he was commissioned into the Royal Marines in 1935. During the Second World War he saw active service in everything from battleships to small commando groups. He was made an officer of the US Legion of Merit for his services to the US Navy at the Assault Gunners School, HMS Turtle, and subsequently served on the staff of the American Commander, Gunfire Support Craft in preparation for the D-Day landings. As such, he assisted in naval fire control for the assault on the Normandy beaches in the American sectors.

troop concentrations behind the Maas. Wall left the Service in 1950 determined to enter politics. By the 1951 general election he was standing for the Labour stronghold of Cleveland where he also fought a by-election in the following year.

It was another by-election, in February 1954, which took him into the House for the safe Tory seat of Haltemprice in the East Riding of Yorkshire, which he continued to represent until 1987. In the Commons his main mission was to support every anti-communist cause, which meant backing leaders ranging from Salazar of Portugal to Smith of Rhodesia, Tshombe of Katanga, Syngman Rhee of Korea and successive presidents of Taiwan and South Africa.

Indeed, the apartheid regime in the Republic of South Africa provided one of his great causes. He visited it several times as a guest of its Government, defended its policies, supported links with the Springboks and asked for South African wines to be provided in Commons restaurants. On foreign policy his hard line included a desire to combat the Soviet naval threat by getting Nato to consider mining the seabed at the entrance to the Baltic and placing mobile anti-ship missiles along the shore. He was devoted to the United States under Ronald Reagan, advocating European participation in the Star Wars project and backing the American invasion of Grenada, a Commonwealth country. In 1983, his views on immigration and capital punishment were predictable and in line with those of the Monday Club, of which he was a natural member and which he served for a time as chairman.

Keith McNeill, magazine editor, died of complications arising from pneumonia on May 11 aged 44. He was born on August 6, 1953.

KEITH McNEILL



McNeill: ebullient editor who helped to revive the fortunes of Woman's Own in the face of new competition

IN his time at the helm of Woman's Own, Keith McNeill was one of the most unconventional as well as successful editors in the overcrowded and competitive market of women's weeklies. His eight-year editorship revived the fortunes of a magazine which had slumped in circulation under the challenge of brash new rivals, yet he remained as cheerfully informal with the most junior staff as he was forthright with IPC executives. Keith McNeill was raised on a Slough council estate, and educated at Slough Grammar School, where his headmaster's verdict was that he was destined for a factory job. In fact, his gifts were artistic, and he wanted to be a photographer. But when he applied to the Slough Evening Mail in 1973, there were no such vacancies, so he was taken on as a trainee reporter.

A jaunty, boyish figure, he stood out more at this time for his flamboyant dress and sharp sense of humour than any evidence of ambition. Having no driving licence, he would set out to cover council meetings in flapping bell-bottom trousers on the back of a friend's moped. After three years, the paper's editor advised him that he would never make a journalist and should try something else. There followed spells at the Slough Observer, the Morning Advertiser, and as a freelance. Only when he finally turned to popular feature journalism, however, did his talents really start to emerge with the launch in 1985 of Chat magazine, where he was features editor. It was an immediate success. Two years later,

he took a chance and moved to the briefly revived London Evening News, also as features editor, and when it closed, he became convinced that his career was doomed to fizzle out. Instead, he was taken on as deputy editor of Woman's Own, where he succeeded Bridget Rowe as editor two years later in 1990. The magazine, one of the flagships of IPC, had suffered a haemorrhage of readers following a shake-up in the once-busy world of women's weeklies, with the launch of new titles like Take a Break and Bella. He relished the competition, and challenged conventional thinking about what readers wanted, but his greatest tal-

ents were motivating staff, who would have done anything for him, and using his instinct for popular and working-class culture in a way that was neither insulting nor condescending. Over the past two years, the magazine has performed particularly strongly and become the most profitable of IPC's dozens of weekly titles. Like many ebullient personalities, he was a great worrier, and used to joke about his hypochondria. Last month he developed a chest infection which turned into pneumonia with further medical complications. He married, in 1983, Ruth Brotherhood, a fellow journalist. They had a son.

WILLIAM LOUTHER

William Louther, dancer and choreographer, died in London of cancer on May 7 aged 56. He was born in New York on January 2, 1942.

EVEN if he had been blessed only with the amazing physical beauty of his person and his dancing, William Louther would have been one of the outstanding performers of his time. But to his lithe, slender looks and grace of movement were added a rare expressiveness, a strong presence, uncanny virtuosity and a

considerable musicianship. Very fortunately for the new contemporary dance style establishing itself in Britain in the late 1960s, he lent his exceptional qualities to its earliest programmes, and also to creating — in collaboration with Peter Maxwell Davies — one of the most memorable examples of modern dance and music theatre. When the London Contemporary Dance Theatre opened its doors at the Place in October 1969, Louther's solo Hermit Songs was one of the season's greatest and most

memorable achievements. Revised for him by its choreographer, Alvin Ailey, and set to Samuel Barber's song-cycle, it demanded an unusual range, from the delicate depiction of the Virgin Mary with her baby, through a tormented climax to a quiet sacrificial ending. Yet what lingered most vividly in memory after 30 years are the modesty, involvement and perfection with which Louther met all its demands of technique and characterisation. This solo and Martha Graham's miniature master-

piece El Penitente, in which he played the Christ figure with gentle strength, showed what Louther could make of fine choreography (in later seasons he brought equal authority to the other male role in Graham's ballet, the self-lashing Penitente). But Louther's generosity with his talents was seen also in lesser works made by the company's young creative aspirants, in which his skill and personality did so much to disguise shortcomings, where their ambition exceeded their abilities. London audiences had first

encountered Louther's artistry five years earlier, when at only 22 he stood out even among several other excellent male dancers in the first season here of Alvin Ailey's company. His roles then included the tempestuous "Sinner Man" sequences in Ailey's signature work Revelations, a comic cameo in Roots of the Blues and, most impressive of all, the lead in Talley Beatty's Road of the "Phoebe Snow" to music by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn. Here he played a young man in a black ghetto under the railway tracks, from which his sweetheart falls to her death after being raped. This was another part demanding a wide range from Louther, from their quiet love duet to his furious attempts to overcome her aggressor, from a despairing torment like a caged animal to his desolate mourning. He gave it all with a tremendous power and conviction.



Louther: brought grace, expressiveness and virtuosity to the newly established contemporary dance

Already by then Louther had packed much varied experience into his youthful career. Born in New York City, he studied there at the High School of Performing Arts, the Juilliard School and with Martha Graham. Significantly, he also listed Graham's musical adviser, Louis Horst, among his teachers. His stage debut, at 16, was with May O'Donnell's company; before long he had danced also for Donald McKayle, Graham and Ailey, and in Broadway shows. The Ailey company brought him to Britain just as interest in American modern dance was growing here, and the variety of companies visiting London meant that his next two seasons showed him in strikingly different contexts. The spring of 1967 found him with the Graham company, used mainly in her more lyrical works such as Diversion of Angels. Later that year he starred in a big show, Black

New World, for dancers and singers devised by the choreographer Donald McKayle, at the Edinburgh Festival followed by a London season at the Strand Theatre. In this his roles ranged from the dramatic chain-gang baller Rainbow Round My Shoulder to a splendidly comic duet in Sporting House Saga. When he decided to settle in Britain, Louther contributed much as a teacher at the new London Contemporary School besides his dancing. He was also chosen by Maxwell Davies to be one of the two soloists (the cellist Jennifer Ward Clarke was the other) in Vesalii icones, one of the series of theatrical scores he wrote for his Pierrot Players.

The work was inspired by the 16th-century anatomical engravings of Andreas Vesalius, a different pose from them opening each section. On these the composer imposed a further dramatic and visual layer taken from the Stations of the Cross and the medieval con-

cept of the Antichrist. Louther, performing not far from naked, caught Maxwell Davies' purposes perfectly and embodied them in vivid physical form. Premiered at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in December 1960, this was such a success that it was quickly taken into the London Contemporary repertoire — but only when the original dancer and musicians were available to perform it. Among other works Louther danced for London Contemporary, the most important were a revival of "Phoebe Snow" and Stages, an ambitious two-act creation by the company's director, Robert Cohan, in which the long, arduous and both dramatically and choreographically demanding role of the Hero was built around his special qualities (including, thankfully, his wit). This proved extremely popular and contributed greatly to proving the company's potential in the shaping of British dance.

In 1973, however, Louther moved temporarily to Israel to become director of the Bat-Sheva Dance Company, and when he returned to Britain two years later he took on another commitment as founder director of a small company in Cardiff, Welsh Dance Theatre, which started with high hopes but did not attract enough audience or financial support to survive long. By now, too, the strain that Louther put on himself through indulgence in substances popular at that permissive time began to affect his career.

Occasionally he returned as guest for special occasions with London Contemporary, and showed that he could still achieve his old standards in the solos uniquely associated with him, but the continued blossoming of new roles which his admiring audience, and he too, must have hoped for did not happen.

Although pushed into the shadows and the sidelines, his career never stalled altogether. He taught, he put on new productions now and again (although not always in very conspicuous places), and it was only his final illness that prevented a startingly bold project in which he and the former Kirov ballerina Galina Panova had planned to collaborate and dance together. Louther was not only a fine artist but a man of noble qualities too: intelligent, eager, persuasive and quiet-spoken with a beautiful voice. The dwindling of his career caused deep regret to his friends and colleagues, but the extent of his achievement in a comparatively short time cannot be forgotten or denied. Without him, British dance would have been much poorer. He is survived by a wife, Sharon Atkins, whom he married not long ago; she helped him to sustain his painful last illness.

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ON THIS DAY

1,000 YOUTHS IN FIGHT AT BRIGHTON

ON THIS DAY

the move. One woman onlooker said: "They all ought to be put in gaol — an old-fashioned gaol. They are all a nasty dirty lot."

SEVENTY-FIVE adolescents were arrested here during a day of continuing "battles" between two groups of youths. In one incident more than 1,000 waged a running scrimmage near the aquarium.

STONE THROWN AT AMBULANCE BRIGHTON, MAY 18

As soon as a large group of "Mods" began to collect on any section of the sea front, police whistles were blown and the youths were kept

NEWS

Clinton plea for an 'Yes' vote

President Clinton issued a stark warning against the risks of allowing the Northern Ireland peace agreement to "blow apart" as rock stars lined up with politicians to rally Unionist support before Friday's referendum.

As Mr Clinton and Tony Blair urged the Ulster people for a second day to back the Good Friday accord, preparations were being made for a hastily arranged "Yes" concert to bolster David Trimble in Belfast's Waterfront Hall. Pages 1, 8, 10

Christie's sells out to French

Christie's, the most blue-blooded of British auction houses, became the latest piece of English heritage to go abroad. It is selling the 232-year-old business for £721 million to a French forerunner whose portfolio includes the Château Latour vineyards and the Au Printemps department store. Page 1

Sandline in the clear

Customs and Excise decided not to press charges against Sandline because of "clear evidence" of meetings between the Foreign Office and the firm over Sierra Leone. Pages 1, 10, 25

Manuscript saved

The Sherborne Missal, a Gothic manuscript believed to be worth more than £10 million, has been saved for the nation. Page 1

Britons killed

Two Britons were killed in Jakarta during the current turmoil in the Indonesian capital, apparently the victims of separate robberies. Pages 1, 21

Arms-to-Iraq bill

The Government is to pay almost £1 million in legal costs after dropping a prosecution against Gerald James and three other former directors in the so-called "supergun" arms-to-Iraq affair. Page 2

Artful students

Thirteen students from a fine arts course spent their grant for an exhibition partying in Estepona, Spain; they called their work "Going Places". Page 3

Holiday tragedy

A teenager, who died suddenly while on holiday in Greece, may have been carrying surgical gauzes and plastic clamps in her stomach after an operation seven years ago. Page 6

Blair is taught how to play the game

Tony Blair was never in danger of breaching protocol — that the President "always wins" — when he played a few holes of golf with Bill Clinton. For while Mr Clinton has a handicap of 12 and plays with a passion known only to aficionados of the sport, the Prime Minister until yesterday had never swung a club in anger. Page 1

Radon link to cancer

Scientists have discovered that one in 20 deaths from lung cancer in England is caused by radon in the home. Page 7

'Diana doll' uproar

The Princess of Wales Memorial Fund took its first legal action against the sale of unauthorised "Diana dolls" by Franklin Mint, which is dressing the Princess in a minesweeping outfit. Page 11

Still a class above

A five-year study shows parents have lost faith in state schools and that growing numbers are paying for their children's education because of smaller class sizes in private schools. Page 12

US backs down

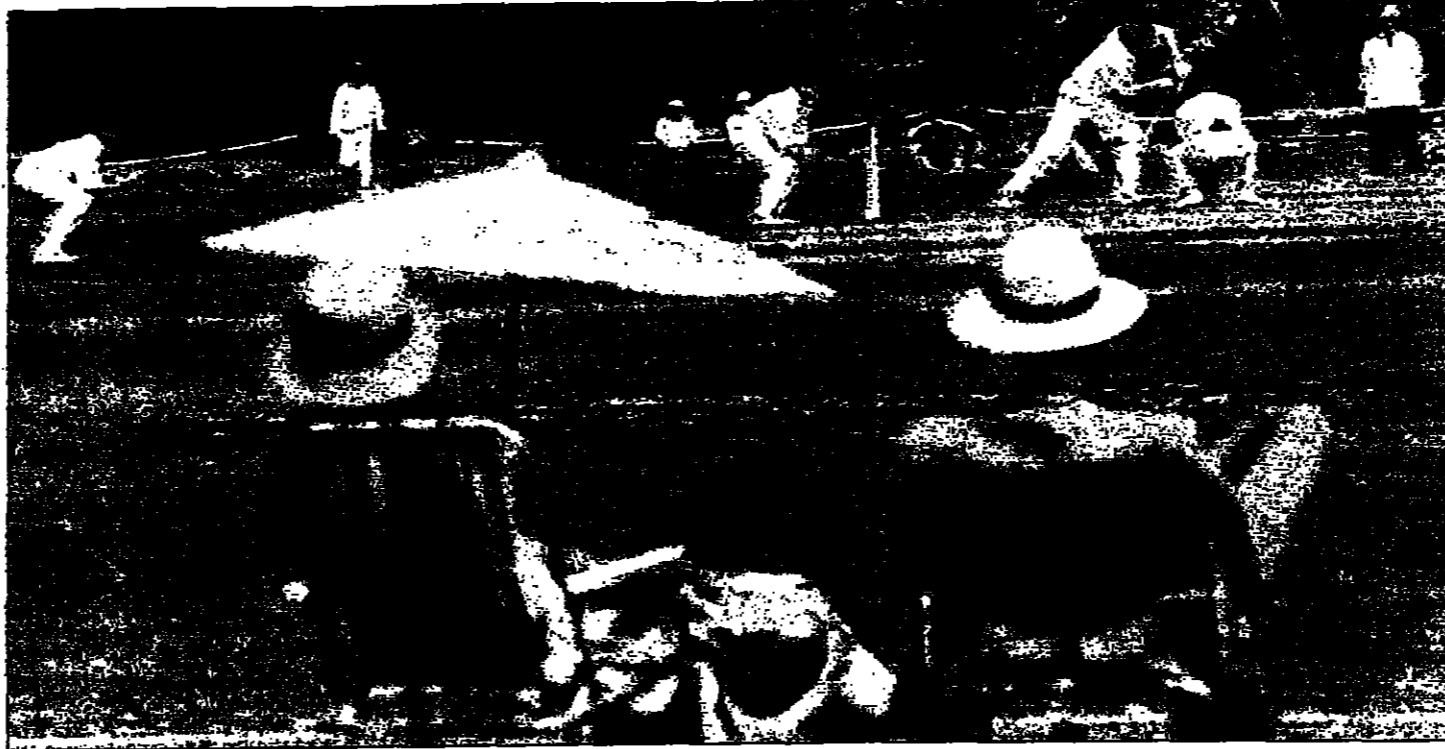
America and Europe resolved a dispute that should end the threat of US sanctions on firms doing business with Cuba, Libya and Iran. Page 16

Lebed causes a stir

Russian politicians from the Left to the Right were shocked by Aleksandr Lebed's election victory in Siberia as he is now expected to mount a challenge for the presidency. Pages 18, 25

Pakistan's dilemma

As Pakistan prepares for a nuclear test it knows that it would gain politically in the short run by conducting the blast but lose in the long term because of heightened economic hardship. Page 20



Spectators enjoy a day out in the sun to watch Warwickshire bat against Oxford University at The Parks in Oxford

Business

Rook retreats: Northern Rock, being investigated by the Office of Fair Trading, was forced to suspend all notice periods on its savings accounts. Page 29

All clear: The Office of Fair Trading has given a clean bill of health to the petrol retailing market, leaving the way clear for big oil companies to increase their share at the expense of independents. Page 29

Tesco in Thailand: Tesco is paying £111 million for a controlling stake in Thailand's Lotus hypermarket group, and assuming debts of £89 million. Page 29

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 91.6 to 5,826.2. The pound fell 83 cents to \$1.6210 and 18 pfennig to DM2.9003. The sterling index fell to 103.1 from 103.2. Page 32

Sports

Football: Bobby Robson said Paul Gascoigne had a "duty to his country" to overcome his drinking habits and focus on playing for England in the World Cup. Page 56

Rugby union: The governing body of the game in England, the RFU, escaped censure from the International Board over their deal with the leading clubs. Page 56

Cricket: The county game takes a step into the unknown when six counties stage weekday matches in the Axa League, a tournament until now largely confined to Sundays. Page 56

Golf: Miguel Angel Martin, unable to play in the Ryder Cup because of injury, has been exempted from the final qualifying stages of the Open Championship. Page 53

Arts

String band: In the past 25 years the Kronos Quartet have commissioned a staggering 400 new works from composers. They are in London to celebrate. Page 36

Search and destroy: Cornelia Parker inflicts violence on objects such as silverware and coffins, then rearranges the remains into intriguing installations. Page 37

Cross-country run: Britain's longest art show opens this Saturday — the £2.7 million Artspanline98 is showing work across 200 east-west miles. Page 37

Mime time: At the Old Vic the legendary Marcel Marceau unveils his new show with unhappy results; plus Frank Wedekind revived, and improvisation on the South Bank. Page 38

Features

Wild parties: "Going to parties in other people's houses when they are away is a fundamental part of teenage life". Page 22

What's cooking: The caterers who supply Britain's pop bands discuss their food whims. Page 22

Dr Thomas Stuttaford: University College London has opened a new centre for the study of basic clinical skeletal research. Page 22

Mr Complaints: Frances Gibb reports on the work of the barristers' first public complaints commissioner. Page 41

Paperwork swamp: A task force set up by the Government has confirmed what small businesses have been saying for years: there is too much regulation. Page 48

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

INTERFACE: Bird on the wire: why Hollywood's next blockbuster needs a parrot made in Britain

HOMES: An ancient priory, once home to a flamboyant poet-Tory MP, is back on the market

Major Sir Patrick Wall, former Conservative MP; William Louth, dancer and choreographer; Keith McNeill, editor of Woman's Own. Page 27

New strategy to protect ancient buildings: police powers to arrest school truants; India and Pakistan's nuclear test race; call for ban on smoking and boxing. Page 25

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,795

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-25 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS: 1 Top way to make pale ale? (10). 6 Beheaded insects still venomous creatures (4). 10 Deliveries railwaymen turned back, initially, go through (3,4). 11 Spicy ingredient when duck and orange gets cooked (7). 12 Journalist's architectural feature is in ahead of time (9). 13 Where meeting is held to get leading article out of the way (5). 14 Left school, having told tales (3,2). 15 It takes views of head after half's provided (5,4). 17 A crowd on shore spread (9). 20 Close relation to some extent a failure (5). 21 Nice old performer (5). 23 Uncivilised type making cruel remark to heretic (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 20794. A crossword grid with letters filled in, including words like Mocha, Breakfast, Turboprop, and others.

Latest Road and Weather conditions. UK Weather - All regions 0236 444 910. Includes sections for Weather by Fax and World City Weather.

World City Weather. 133 destinations world wide. Includes a table of weather conditions for various cities like Aberdeen, London, and New York.

Sources of Darkness. A table listing various sources of darkness with their respective locations and details.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING. Recycled paper made up 41% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

FORECAST. General: England, Wales, N Ireland, Irish Republic dry, mainly sunny but coastal mist. Includes sections for London, SE England, E Anglia, Channel Is, and other regions.

TEMPERATURES YESTERDAY. A table showing temperature data for various locations, including high, low, and average temperatures.

ABROAD. A table showing weather forecasts for various international locations like Abu Dhabi, Madrid, and Tokyo.

EARLY WARNING! WATCH TOMORROW'S FORECAST. A large graphic with text and a stylized sun/moon icon.

WEATHER TODAY. A weather map showing cloud cover, sun, and moon icons across different regions.

CHANGES TO CHART FROM MONDAY. A map showing weather fronts and pressure systems moving across the region.

WIND TIPS. A table listing wind speed and direction tips for various locations.

HIGHEST & LOWEST. A table showing the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in various locations.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring text like 'Northern R...', 'Microsoft lawsuit wipes \$10bn off share', and 'CIT design'.

THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION
2
TODAY



BUSINESS
Pipe dream that could be making of Monument
PAGE 33



ARTS
Why lamb banana is on the menu at a feast of visual art
PAGES 36-38



LAW
Angry about a barrister? This man will sort it out
PAGES 39-41

FINAL ITF LEAGUE LISTINGS
SPORT
49-56

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft TUESDAY MAY 19 1998 RM

Northern Rock climbs down on notice periods

By SUSAN EMMETT
NORTHERN ROCK, the Newcastle bank being investigated by the Office of Fair Trading, was forced yesterday to suspend all notice periods on its savings accounts.
The move marks a U-turn by the former building society that recently reorganised its accounts and

slashed rates without warning but refused to allow customers the freedom to move their money elsewhere without notice. The changes affected one in five of its savers.
However, following last week's announcement of an OFT investigation, the bank is to give savers a month to transfer funds to higher-paying accounts without penalty or notice. In a further climbdown, the bank is backdating the transfers to April 23, when the changes took place, and paying savers the difference in interest.
The OFT, which is meeting Northern Rock on Thursday, welcomed the agreement. A spokeswoman said: "It's what we wanted. Basically, we wanted fairness on both sides of the contract."
The controversy surrounding the reorganisation of accounts has also led the Treasury into considering a tightening of the banking code after David Davis, chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, highlighted the treatment of customers by banks.
Mr Davis, Conservative MP for Halespence and Howden, said: "This is excellent news for Northern Rock savers and must reflect a sharp awareness by Northern Rock of customers' rights. I look forward to the rest of the industry recognising the importance of proper treatment of customers and writing that proper treatment into more rigorous banking and building society codes."
Adam Applegarth, executive director of Northern Rock, said the move was a reaction to customers' concerns and stressed that the bank would be co-operating fully with the OFT's inquiry.
As an extension of an earlier promise, Northern Rock has pledged to give customers notice that is at least the equivalent to the notice period on their account. In the recent reshuffle of accounts, many savers only received notification after the changes were made.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5826.2 (-91.6)
FTSE All share	2775.35 (-33.08)
New York	15384.47 (+141.61)
Dow Jones	9060.13 (-35.87)
S&P Composite	1105.18 (-3.55)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/8% (5.125%)
Long Bond	102 1/8% (102 1/8%)
Yield	5.94% (5.97%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	7 1/8% (7 1/8%)
Life long gilt	107 1/8% (107 1/8%)

STERLING

New York	1.6223 (1.6248)
London	1.6213 (1.6294)
Frankfurt	2.9308 (2.9325)
Paris	9.7318 (9.7333)
SF	2.4141 (2.4131)
Yen	223.57 (218.46)
£ Index	103.1 (103.2)

Yield on UK GOVERNMENT BONDS

London	1.7875 (1.7857)
FR	5.9928 (5.9925)
SF	1.4888 (1.4870)
Yen	135.22 (134.50)
£ Index	111.1 (110.4)

Tokyo close Yen 135.40

Bank 15-day (Jul) \$14.65 (\$14.85)

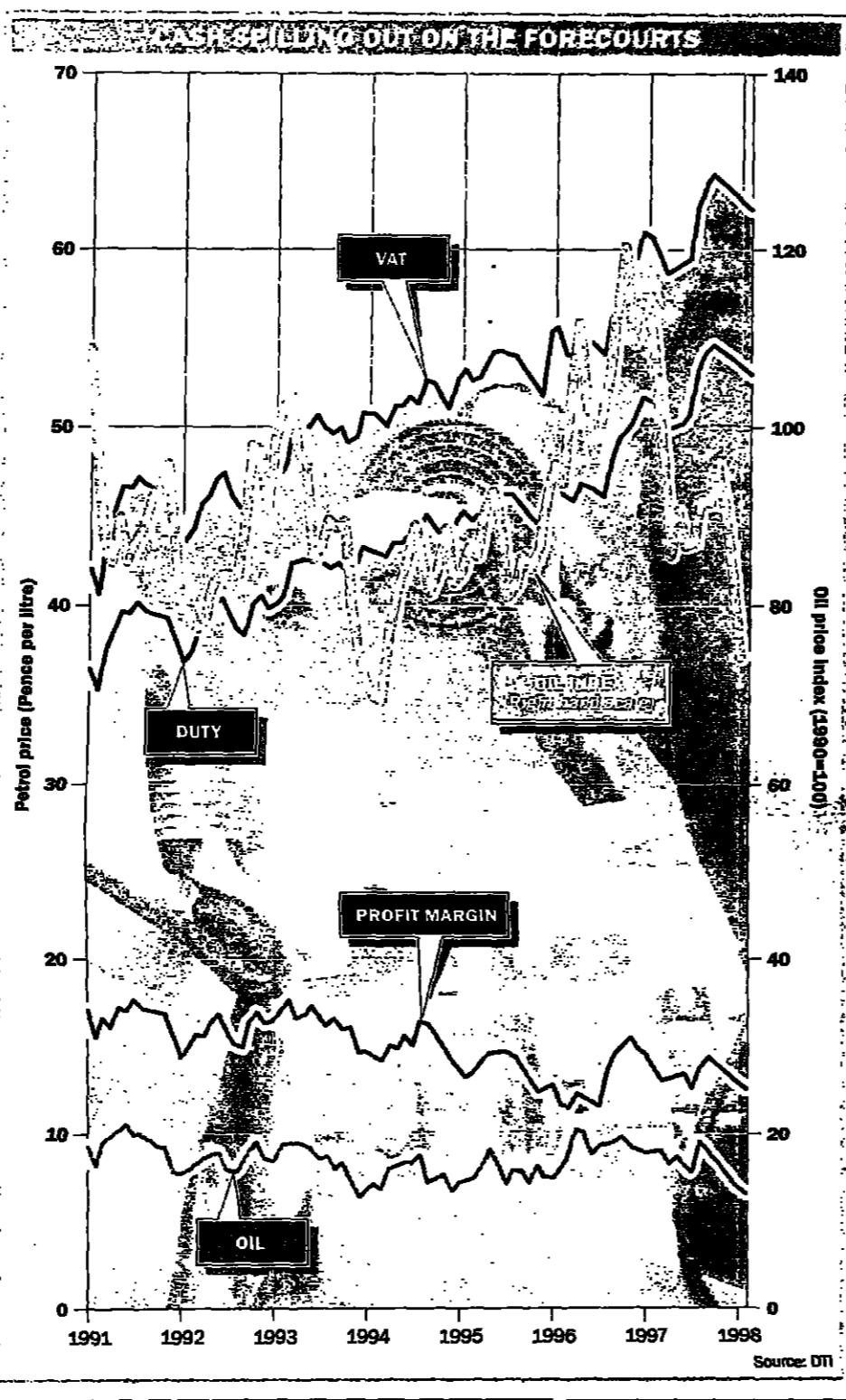
London close \$299.35 (\$301.25)

* denotes midday trading price

Microsoft lawsuit wipes \$10bn off shares

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

MICROSOFT yesterday faced "all-out war" over its monopoly position after Janet Reno, the US Attorney-General, launched an unprecedented anti-trust lawsuit.
On Wall Street, the Justice Department announcement wiped \$10 billion (£6 billion) off the software house's market value after wide-ranging criticism from Ms Reno and a personal attack on Bill Gates, the Microsoft chairman, by Joel Klein, her anti-trust chief. Some 20 state attorneys-general also joined the actions.
Microsoft fought back by saying it will go ahead with the release of Windows 98, its new computer operating system that is at the heart of the dispute. Mr Gates also revealed that Warren Buffett, the investment guru, was helping with his defence.
Ms Reno said: "Microsoft used its monopoly power to develop a chokehold on the browser market needed to access the Internet. Most importantly it has restricted the choices available to consumers in America and around the world. If Microsoft insists on including its browser on Windows 98 it should also include Netscape's Navigator browser. If it doesn't it must unbundle its own browser."
David Readerman, an analyst at NationsBanc Montgomery Securities, said: "It could be all-out war."
The legal action alleges that Mr Gates personally participated in an illegal conspiracy to eliminate competition from the Internet browser market. Mr Klein claimed to have evidence of Mr Gates's involvement in a scheme that would have sewn up the browser market. Mr Klein said: "In a nutshell, what the evidence shows, is Microsoft - from Bill Gates on down - quickly realised that Netscape's Internet browser held a real threat to Microsoft's Windows monopoly." Mr Klein alleged Mr Gates was determined to "cut off Netscape's air supply".
Yesterday's filing of the anti-trust suit comes after a three-day delay. Microsoft had made a last-minute settlement pro-



Petrol pump price war wins backing from OFT

By CARL MORTSHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

THE Office of Fair Trading has given a clean bill of health to the petrol retailing market in the UK, leaving the way clear for big oil companies to increase their share at the expense of independents.
John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, admitted that the industry had been selling petrol at a loss in 1996 but concluded that there was no evidence of predatory or collusive behaviour intended to remove independent rivals. "The industry has served consumers well," he said.
However, his report has a sting in the tail for supermarkets which could find their competitive position eroded by changes in business rates. The OFT's report recommends that the Valuation Office adjust business rates to remove the supermarkets' advantage over other petrol retailers.
According to the OFT, supermarkets currently enjoy a rates advantage over oil companies that could be worth as much as 1p a litre to their profit margin. This is because they are assessed on a flat rate of 0.88p a litre for their sites while other petrol retailers are assessed on a sliding scale based on petrol throughput, ranging from 0.28p a litre for a million litres to 2p a litre for nine million litres. The OFT said it had identified several regions where supermarkets may enjoy an unfair advantage.
Food retailers will be hurt by the removal of a big cost advantage if the Valuation Office follows the OFT recommendation. The supermarkets have been at the forefront of petrol discounting and are likely to be earning net margins of just 3-4p per litre.
James Frost, chairman of the Save group of independent petrol stations, said that higher costs for supermarkets could strengthen the hand of the leading oil companies and lead to more takeovers, such as Shell's purchase of the Gulf chain. Mr Frost said the OFT's report was disappointing. "If you recognise that petrol is being sold at a loss, it doesn't take a genius to work out that Esso and Shell can afford it but the independents cannot."
Mr Bridgeman said that competition was working. "Excluding tax and inflation, in 1990 the industry realised 15p per litre whereas in the first quarter of 1998, the industry was realising 10p per litre." The OFT said that the fall in the crude oil price had a minor effect on industry margins. Based on an average price of 66p per litre of unleaded petrol in February, the OFT said that crude oil was probably some 5p of the cost, while duty and tax represented almost 54p of the cost, leaving 7p for refining, distribution, retail overhead and profit.
Commentary, page 31

Market sees third-largest fall this year

THE stock market yesterday suffered its third-largest one-day fall this year as worries over US interest rates and political unrest in Indonesia depressed investor sentiment (Alasdair Murray writes).
The FTSE 100 closed down 91.6 at 5826.2 ahead of the US interest rate meeting today. The market does not expect a rise this month but traders are concerned that a rise is looming.
Stocks with heavy exposure to Asia also lost ground.
Stock market, page 32
Because of technical problems at our supplier, we are unable to carry unit trust prices. We apologise.

CIT appoints Foster to design South Bank site

By CHRIS AYRES
SIR NORMAN FOSTER, the eminent architect, has been appointed by Capital and Income Trust, the British property venture, to design a £1 billion development to rival Canary Wharf on London's South Bank.
CIT, whose chief executive is John Barroll Brown, bought the 13-acre site between London Bridge and Tower Bridge - which overlooks the Thames and the Tower of London - for about £70 million in January.
The development, which at present is just mud flats, will offer offices with floor plates of up to 100,000 square feet. There are also plans for to incorporate shopping and lei-

Christie's soars on French bid

SHARES in Christie's International soared 25 per cent yesterday against a sharply falling market, in response to a £721 million bid by Artemis, the French holding company controlled by Francois Pinault (Jon Ashworth writes).
Artemis will pay 396p a share in cash. Shareholders will remain entitled to the final dividend of 4p a share for the year to December 1997. The shares ended 75p higher yesterday at 387 1/2p.
Artemis beneficially owns 29 per cent of Christie's and has irrevocable undertakings over a further 9.1 per cent. The offer represents a 40 per cent premium to the Christie's closing share price on May 1.

Tesco buys £111m Thai stake for Asia platform

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT
TESCO, which has built a leading position in British food retailing, made its first move into Asia yesterday when it bought a controlling stake in Thailand's Lotus hypermarket group.
The company plans to double the current 13 Lotus stores and treble turnover over the next five years.
David Reid, Tesco deputy chairman, said Lotus stores could also be opened elsewhere in Asia. The acquisition makes Tesco the second largest food retailer in Thailand.
Tesco, which has built up a large hypermarket business in central Europe, has been looking at Thailand, Korea and Taiwan for the past three years. "This is a platform into the region," Mr Reid said.
The move had been made possible by the economic difficulties which have hit Thailand, he said. "Before the crash it was difficult to find anything to buy because good companies were most likely to be floated."
Tesco will pay £111 million for the stake, which it is buying from the CP Group, and will assume £89 million of debts. Lotus made a £2 million pre-tax loss last year on £202 million of sales. The purchase will dilute Tesco's earnings by about 1 per cent in the first two years.
In order to get around the Thai law which prevents a foreign company owning more than 49 per cent of a Thai business, Tesco is forming a new company with CP Group called Tesco Stores (Thailand). Tesco will have a 75 per cent control of Lotus. CP Group will have 17 per cent, with the remainder in the hands of SHV Makro, the Dutch retail group.
Asia is becoming an increasingly popular market for British retailers. Marks & Spencer has a large number of stores in the region. Boots recently said that it is to open stores in Thailand, while B&Q, part of the Kingfisher group, has opened stores in Taiwan.
Commentary, page 31

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Kingfisher with the roving eye

COMMENTARY by our City Editor



Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy has a roving eye. There are few retail businesses he has not looked up and down at some time since he moved out of British Sugar and into what is now Kingfisher. Occasionally his attention lingers long enough for serious figure work to get under way. Argos, Storehouse, Tesco and Littlewoods all feature on the long list of companies with which Kingfisher calculators have become familiar. But rarely do Sir Geoff's flirtations progress beyond mere theorising. He can generally, and sensibly, find reasons for not making a corporate move.

Sir Geoff was first attracted to Asda almost a decade ago, when the company was beginning to suffer the ill-effects of its £705 million acquisition of Gateway stores. As arbitrageurs piled into the stock, the lamps burnt late at Kingfisher headquarters while Sir Geoff and his team looked at what might be done with all that floorspace. The shares then were about 180p. Sir Geoff was still looking, crumpling up paper clips and agonising over possible courses of action, as Asda's problems worsened and the shares plunged to 23p. He kept watching as he waved off his finance director, Archie Norman, who had the audacity to think that he knew how to sort out Asda's problems. And a fortnight ago, with Archie's strategy proven to the extent that Asda shares are back up at 180p,

Sir Geoff took the plunge and suggested that, perhaps, the two companies should talk about getting closer together.

What was Archie Norman to say? He could hardly snub his former boss, but the unfortunate thing is that, since Asda last year talked seriously about merging with Safeway and months before was mounting a bid for the Welcome Break motorway service stations, the instant City reaction is to label the Leeds-based company as looking, if not quite promiscuous, then desperate for a deal.

Such a verdict is unjust. Under Norman and his chief executive, Allan Leighton, Asda has successfully differentiated itself from its grocery rivals and has plenty of scope for growing its core business in the UK. But it is not blinkered to other opportunities. If a deal with Kingfisher would have significantly enhanced shareholder value, then Norman, with a goodly stack of options, would not rule it out.

The MP for Tunbridge Wells is not devoting all his time to his constituents and the business of making William Hague marketable, a tough task even for a top retailer. He and Leighton have big ambitions for Asda. Tesco is

showing one direction in which a British grocer can grow, moving first into central Europe and now, determinedly and with excellent timing, into Thailand. But the Asda team believe their talents can be applied far beyond selling baked beans.

They are certainly not going to stop exploring the possibilities and, when the right one comes along, Archie may pounce faster than his former boss. Opportunistic? You bet.

Oil poured on troubled forecourts

The urge to merge and a relentless squeeze on small independents are entrenched on the petrol forecourt as in any other part of retailing. They are likely to accelerate now that the Office of Fair Trading has again declared those bright-eyed, innocent-looking oil majors blameless.

John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, knows that voters like low prices and prefer competition to monopoly for that reason. Raising prices to promote competition does not give people faith in regulation, though that did not stop some utility ideologues.

On that pragmatic test, an industry that has cut its real prices net of tax by a third since 1990 has, in Mr Bridgeman's words "served consumers well". No matter that the trade has run at a loss as the oil majors struggle for market share, forcing out independents who cannot take the financial pain.

The local garage's case for OFT help has also weakened over time. Oil majors now cut prices to counter competition from lower-cost supermarkets, only incidentally smashing independents into the ground. When competition from local garages has gone, the oil majors will not be able to arrive sepa-

ately at the conclusion that they should raise prices and make up for lost profits. Supermarkets, with low overheads and guaranteed passing trade could often still undercut them.

Practice makes perfect in competition inquiries. Big oil now has it down to a fine art. Far from them unfairly driving out independents by predatory pricing, they have convinced Mr Bridgeman that the nasty supermarkets have had unfair advantages over them, like not paying such high property taxes.

The OFT dutifully says rates should be higher on supermarkets sites. Indirectly, this would put prices up and on Mr Bridgeman's more general test, would not serve consumers well. It is, however, politically correct, chiming in with the Government's Luddite drive against out-of-town supermarkets.

Mr Bridgeman could have gone one better and backed Gordon Brown's Budget call for

relatively lower rural petrol prices. Any hint of predatory pricing could be removed by obliging national retailers to charge the same price everywhere. That would initially bring prices down for many consumers and if, as seems likely, oil majors then closed rural outlets, at least they would leave trade for the little guys.

Beckett and the big picture

The poor President of the Board of Trade, this week Margaret Beckett must put her mind to the business of bus shelters and public lavatories and determine whether or Frenchman's ambitions to be big in that quarter should be thwarted in Britain by a reference to the Monopolies & Mergers Commission.

Jean-François Decaux's desire to provide us with more conveniences is unlikely to sway Mrs Beckett. As she weighs up his £475 million bid for More Group, she is more likely to be influenced by the fact that together, JC Decaux and More will have an undeniable monopoly — about 70 per cent — of the UK

street furniture market, sought after as advertising space. Under-bidder, the US Clear Channel, has no such handicap. But does it make sense to look at this market in isolation? Advertisers appear to view it as merely one aspect of a huge outdoor advertising market. Mrs Beckett should see it this way too.

Decaux argues that even within the street furniture market, there is thriving competition from overseas companies, so that a merged Decaux/More would not have the market to itself.

Since Mrs Beckett is loath to explain how she views competition issues, we can only guess how she will judge Decaux's position. The betting is that, encouraged by the tactics of More's Roger Parry — who yesterday moved to make the potential monopoly even greater — she will stick to narrow definitions and refer the bid.

Child's play

EVEN Polly Pocket might have been unimpressed by the increase in Mattel's bid for her parent company. But the extra halfpenny clinched the deal and brought an end to a nussie that would have been frowned upon in the nursery. The Takeover Panel ruling that GPG could not increase its bid left the way free for Mattel's increased bid to triumph. Appropriate, perhaps, for a company which majors in pocket money toys.

Charges hurt Fine Art's figures

Fine Art Developments, which demerged its greeting card business last autumn, saw pre-tax profits drop from £24.2 million to £12.3 million as a result of heavy exceptional charges. Its shares, nonetheless, rose as the group, now made up of home shopping, fundraising and educational supplies, saw profits on continuing operations rise 13 per cent to £27.9 million. The final dividend is 7.75p (12.8p). The interim was 3.9p (3.7p).

Closures and sales of peripheral businesses last year led to exceptional charges of nearly £10 million, plus £2.17 million reorganisation costs.

Tempus, page 32

Blow's profit

Bridget Blow, chief executive of ITNET, the former information technology division of Cadbury Schweppes, will make a paper profit of up to £12 million when the company floats this summer. ITNET, which yesterday published initial details of its planned flotation, is expected to be valued at between £150 million and £200 million.

Diploma hit

Shares in Diploma, the electronics and building products company, yesterday fell 10p to 217½p on disappointing results. Pre-tax profits fell 26 per cent from £10.4 million to £7.6 million for the six months to March 31. There is an unchanged 4.5p dividend.

£55m listing

Goldshield, the pharmaceutical company, is expected to be valued at about £55 million when it joins the stock market. Ajit Patel, the founder, holds 21.3 per cent, worth £11.7 million. The group raised profits by more than 100 per cent to £3.5 million in the year to end March on sales up 42 per cent to £26 million.

Pearson wins plaudits for Simon & Schuster deal

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

THE City yesterday gave its approval to Marjorie Scardino's first big deal as Pearson chief executive when the shares of the media and information group were marked sharply upwards after the \$4.6 billion (£2.8 billion) acquisition of Simon & Schuster's educational, reference and professional publishing divisions.

Pearson shares rose 8½p, or 8.6 per cent, to £10.29½p in a market that fell 1.5 per cent.

"It's as perfect a fit as you will ever get," said Mrs Scardino, who is selling on the reference and professional businesses to Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst, the US buyout fund, for \$1 billion.

Pearson, whose interests include the *Financial Times* and Penguin, said adjusted earnings would be enhanced in the first full year by the deal. The integration of Simon & Schuster education with Pearson's Addison Wesley Longman would deliver annual cost savings of \$130 million by 2000.

The deal will initially be financed by a \$6 billion new banking facility. Pearson intends to look at a number of financing options including capital markets, disposals and issuing new shares.

Pearson survived a tense bidding war in New York on Sunday afternoon against financial rivals Kohlberg

Kravis Roberts and Michael Milken, the former junk bond king supported by The News Corporation, the parent company of The Times.

If the deal gets regulatory approval, the enlarged Addison Wesley Longman, which will be run by Peter Jovanovich, would become the world's largest educational publisher.

Mrs Scardino said yesterday that education was "one of the great growth industries of our time". In the US \$7 billion was spent on printed and electronic education materials last year.

Outside the US the English language market for educational materials generates total revenues of about \$16 billion a year. Pearson expects both markets to grow about 10 per cent a year.

Jason Crisp, media analyst at Société Générale, said yesterday: "Structurally it is a brilliant deal and is absolutely in line with what the company said it would do. But getting \$130 million savings is a demanding task, and earnings at Simon & Schuster's school businesses are flat."

Standard & Poor's, the credit rating agency, put Pearson on "CreditWatch with negative implications", while conceding that the deal would strengthen Pearson's position in educational publishing.



Marjorie Scardino's first big buy earned City approval

M&G in senior staff shake-up

By Gavin Lumsden

MICHAEL McINTOCK, chief executive of M&G, the beleaguered fund management group, has ordered a shake-up of sales and marketing. He is resigning to study theology.

Peter Emms will step down from the board on June 30 and will leave M&G at the end of September. Mr Emms, who joined M&G from Allied Dunbar in 1992, said he had no plans to return to the City or financial services.

His role at M&G will be split. Rachel Medill, 35, is being promoted from head of corporate communications to take on marketing and control direct advertising. William Nott, 36, head of M&G's institutional business, will take responsibility for group sales, which will primarily mean marketing the group's funds to independent financial advisers. Neither will have a position on the board.

M&G has poached John Innes, 39, charities investment director at Fleming Investment Management, to replace Mr Nott.

Mr McIntock said: "I think Peter has done a really good job considering he has had a difficult hand of cards to play with."

Sales warning upsets Glaxo Wellcome price

By Paul Durman

SHARES in Glaxo Wellcome fell 59p to £16.74 yesterday as the pharmaceutical group gave warning that sales had fallen 7 per cent so far this year because of the strength of sterling and the collapse of business from Zantac, the ulcer drug that lost its US patent protection last year.

Sir Richard Sykes, chairman, told investors at the company's annual meeting in London that sales for the first four months of 1998 were £2.56 billion. This represented a 1 per cent fall even after adjusting for currencies.

He said sales of products launched since 1990 grew by 38 per cent at constant exchange rates. Excluding Zantac, total sales growth was 11 per cent. At its peak in 1994, Zantac had sales of more than £2 billion, representing more than 40 per cent of Glaxo's turnover. It now accounts for 10 per cent of sales.

In his fullest comments yet on the group's failed merger with SmithKline Beecham, Sir Richard said the deal faltered because it became increasingly evident that the two companies had "very significant differences" over the management structure for the new company. Sir Richard contrasted Glaxo Wellcome's de-

voiced structure, which gives power to its regional subsidiaries, with SK, which "runs" a much more centralised operation.

He said it was not a question of ego or personality, "more a matter of organisational structure and culture".

One shareholder complained about the lack of information that small shareholders received about the collapse of the merger. Sir Richard blamed this on tight Stock Exchange rules, before joking: "We are much more interested in not going to jail."

Mattel extra ½p clinches Bluebird

By Martin Barrow

A MERE halfpenny has settled the fate of Britain's last significant independent toy manufacturer after a prolonged takeover battle. (See Commentary this page).

America's giant Mattel Corporation, maker of Barbie dolls, yesterday tabled an increased 116½p-a-share cash offer for Bluebird, whose best-known toy is the Polly Pocket range of miniature dolls.

The offer, which values Bluebird at £48.5 million, is marginally ahead of a 116p offer by Guinness Peat Group, which has been in a bid war with Mattel since early April.

GPG's final offer was made on Thursday and cannot be increased, even in the event of a higher bid. The investment company will receive about £11 million from Mattel for its 9.51 million Bluebird shares, representing 22.8 per cent of the company.

Bluebird shares had fallen to just 80p before the bid war erupted from a five-year high of 386p back in 1996 as the company struggled in a competitive market.

Unigate poised to renew Hillsdown takeover battle

By Robert Cole, City Correspondent

UNIGATE, the milk concern, is expected to renew its takeover bid for Hillsdown Holdings, the unfocused food group, after revealing yesterday that it has already had one bid rejected. Observers said Unigate may be preparing to turn its so-far friendly approaches into a hostile bid.

The offer, at 207p a share, or £1.52 billion, was made earlier this year but Unigate's decision to notify shareholders formally of its bid approach now is interpreted as showing its continuing enthusiasm for acquiring Hillsdown. In a

statement issued through the Stock Exchange, Unigate said it is "continuing to evaluate its interest in the Hillsdown businesses".

It is understood that the failure of previous discussions came down to disagreements about price. It is believed that Hillsdown directors, led by Sir John Nott, the chairman and former defence secretary, reckon on the business is worth at least 230p.

Hillsdown operates a diverse set of businesses. It supplies Marks & Spencer with sandwiches, produces

Chivers marmalade, and builds Fairview houses as well as being one of the country's biggest chicken rearers, and a furniture maker.

Its shares have performed disappointingly for a sustained period. Two weeks ago, in an attempt to engineer a change in its fortunes, Hillsdown proposed to demerge into three parts, and sell off other sections.

Unigate would prefer to cherry pick the food businesses, but is prepared to buy the whole and sell off the parts of Hillsdown it does not want.

Decaux accuses More of attempting to wreck deal

By Chris Ayres

MORE GROUP, the outdoor advertising business, was yesterday accused of deliberately trying to wreck the controversial £475 million takeover bid for the company by JC Decaux of France. (See Commentary, this page).

The accusation came after More Group, whose chief executive is Roger Parry, bought Town & City Group for £6.6 million in cash and £900,000 in debt. More Group claims the acquisition of Town & City, which operates in the Granada, Tyne Tees and Central television regions, takes

its share of the UK outdoor advertising market from 24 per cent to 26 per cent.

JC Decaux is waiting for clearance for the acquisition of More Group from Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade. There are concerns that the merged group would enjoy a monopoly in the street furniture market, and two MPs have already publicly objected to the deal.

A lower offer for More Group has also been made by Clear Channel Communications of the US. Yesterday's deal could influence Mrs

Beckett's final decision, expected this week. Sources close to Decaux said: "This looks suspiciously like a spoiling tactic designed to move the combined share of the outdoor advertising market closer to the point at which the authorities get concerned."

However, Mr Parry said the deal had been planned for two years. "There is an enormously dull paper trail to prove that is the case," he said. In 1997, Town & City had sales of £7.5 million and pre-tax profits of £700,000. Net assets last year were £700,000.

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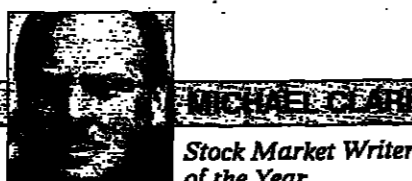
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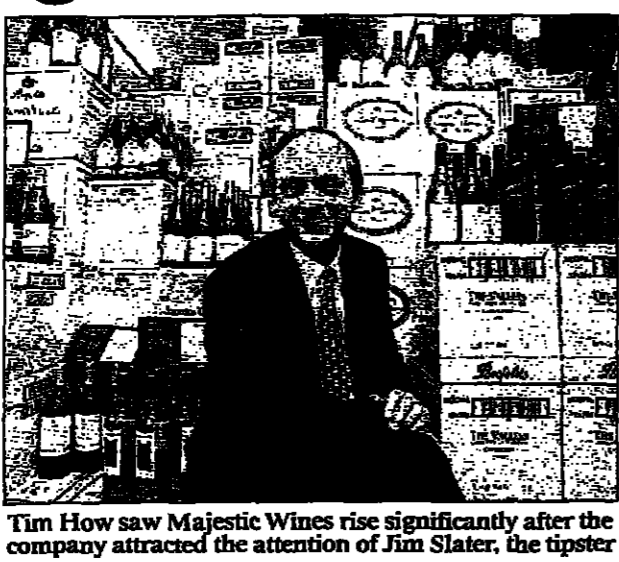
STOCK MARKET



Stock Market Writer of the Year

Brokers braced for more selling after FTSE fall

SHARE prices fell sharply in London and are expected to continue falling when trading resumes this morning.



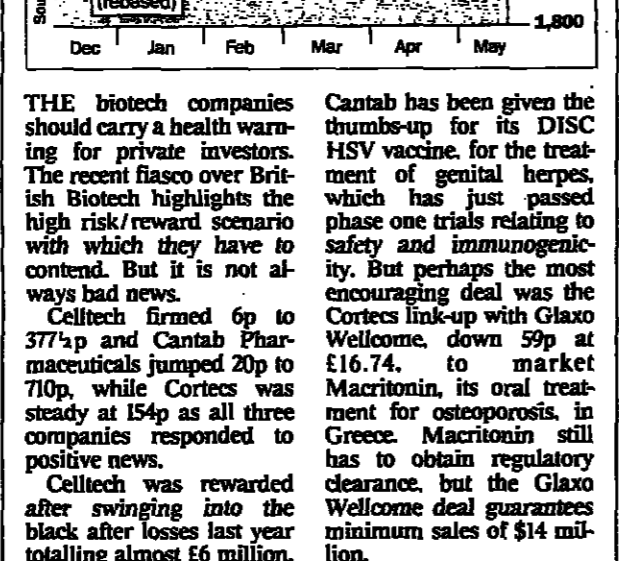
Tim How saw Majestic Wines rise significantly after the company attracted the attention of Jim Slater, the tipster

The rioting in Indonesia and the reaction on Wall Street to what is anticipated to be a protracted court battle between the US Government and Bill Gates's Microsoft kept the bulls sidelined.

A big sell-off of the June financial future set the pattern for the day's trading with the cash market losing ground throughout the day despite a late rally down in the pit.

commendation for the shares from "accumulate" to "neutral". The City gave a positive response to Pearson's acquisition of the Simon & Schuster publishing business.

A doubling of interim pre-tax profits to £2.2 million with further strong growth forecast lifted H Young Holdings 8p to 162p.



THE biotech companies should carry a health warning for private investors. The recent fiasco over British Biotech highlights the high risk/reward scenario with which they have to contend.

Inter-Alliance was chased higher after the shares were placed at 32p. The price closed at 40p at 3:55p.

NEW YORK: Shares turned lower in morning trade, dragged down by the oil and technology sectors.

MAJOR INDICES

Table listing major stock indices from New York, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and others.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent stock issues such as AB Airlines, Aberdeen, Aberdeen Pub Co, and others.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table listing rights issues for Ask Central, Avocet Mining, Guinness, and others.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table listing major stock price changes for Gaskell, Scot & New, and other companies.

TEMPUS

Biotech's rubber skittles

BIOTECHNOLOGY companies are like self-righting rubber skittles - knock down their lead product and, after a few months in the stock market sin bin, they bounce back up with a promising new drug prospect.

one difficulty of biotech investing. The shares had already risen strongly from 300p over the past few weeks as the smart money moved in ahead of the expected positive news.

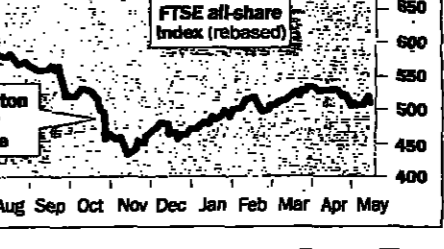
Wolves & Dudley POOR old regional breweries. One minute everybody is happy to put pints of tepid bitter in the Dog & Duck and the next they want £1 billion of investment a year in "retail concepts".

cently won accreditation to brew Heineken lager in Hartlepool. But with the shares trading at a significant discount to the sector, and another buyback on the cards, investors must have confidence in the company's pub concepts.

Brewin Dolphin JUST as the family doctor has all but vanished, so too has the family stockbroker.

It is quite likely to be some sort of problem in one of the three divisions at any one time and the shares remain on a low rating, despite the recent run-up in price.

Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries has found it hard to keep up, with margins that are only half the industry standard of between 15 and 20 per cent.



THE distress felt by many private client brokers has been manifested in the wave of mergers and acquisitions sweeping across the sector.

Also on the plus side, the education division is set for increased growth in line with government spending on schools.

Fine Art EVEN after last year's demerger of its large greeting cards operation, Fine Art Developments is a bit of a mish-mash of businesses.

It may take a leap of faith, but, on a rating of just over ten times forward earnings, the shares are a buy.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR, MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION.

GNL LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

Table of grain futures prices for Liffe Wheat, Liffe Barley, Liffe Potatoes, and Liffe Biffex.

EMERGING FUTURES

Table of emerging market futures prices for Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, Five Year Gilt, and others.

DOLLAR RATES

Table of dollar exchange rates for Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Spain, and Switzerland.

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street stock prices for various companies like AMR Inc, Boeing, and others.

LIFFE OPTIONS

Table of Liffe options prices for various contracts.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Table of London Metal Exchange prices for various metals.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table of money rates for various banks and currencies.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposit rates for various currencies.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Table of gold and precious metal prices.

OTHER STERLING

Table of other sterling exchange rates.

FTSE VOLUMES

Table of FTSE trading volumes for various companies.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, including 'Select comm', 'Caspian be the m', and 'Tough hu'.

Select committee must grab a few headlines

If the Treasury Select represents the pinnacle of the parliamentary committee hierarchy, the Trade and Industry Select Committee should be running a close second. Given the erratic record of DTI incumbents in the past few years, it is not as if the committee has been short of issues on which to cut its teeth. Yet, while the Treasury Select has become an eagerly awaited fixture on the parliamentary calendar, the Trade and Industry Committee has often appeared to offer less bite and a more muted bark.

The times the committee has stolen the headlines during the last year have been few and far between. Its work on the crisis in the coal industry did result in a sharp rebuke for Richard Budge and the expression of some serious concern over the Government's apparent inability to tackle the problem. However, talk that the com-

mittee would try to steal a little of the Treasury's thunder by examining the impact of the high pound on the industry has so far come to nothing. There also appears to have been a marked reluctance to move into the politically sensitive areas of trade union recognition and the minimum wage.

The Committee's lack of presence can, in part, be blamed on the reluctance of Martin O'Neill, its chairman, to become embroiled in what he terms "megaphone diplomacy". Mr O'Neill prefers a consensual approach that concentrates on exploring some of the more complex issues in detail, rather than rattling through headline-grabbing topics of the moment.

This measured approach seems to have rubbed off on the committee's membership. The Treasury Select is full of members who are more than keen to use it as a sounding

BUSINESS OF POLITICS



ALASDAIR MURRAY

board for their own pet policies and a springboard for their own ambitions. In contrast, the Trade and Industry members remain best known for their often very different extracurricular activities.

Roger Berry, Labour MP for Kingswood, has been more in evidence in the Labour rebellion over the cut in single-parent benefits. David Prior, the new Tory MP for Norfolk North has received reams of coverage for his admission that he smoked cannabis in his youth. It would be unfair, however, to suggest the committee is solely at fault for its low profile. Select committees can

only be as exciting as the ministries they shadow and in this respect the DTI could not be more different from the Treasury. Gordon Brown's hyperactivity has ensured that the Treasury Select Committee has been able to scrutinise two Budgets, EMU preparation and the substantial Bank of England reforms during the last year. The Monetary Policy Committee, in particular, has enhanced greatly the importance of the Treasury Select as it provides the main formal check on the Bank's activities.

The DTI, however, has provided little in the way of political excitement. There

have been a few hiccups in the preparation of the Competition Bill but, beyond the predatory pricing problems, limited controversy. The DTI also appears to be a frequent loser when cross-departmental issues surface. The Treasury plucked much of the work on coal away from the department while Tony Blair has taken a personal interest in union recognition.

It is vital that the Trade and Industry Select Committee moves away from the traditional reactive approach and tries to seize the agenda. There are some signs that it is doing so. Its first big set report on energy is due to be published in a couple of weeks and will tackle everything from the electricity generation pool through to the offshore oil regime. The Government has no equivalent work in process and the committee is expected to make a strong point about the vacuum in general energy policies.

The appointment of new regulators should also provide an opportunity for the committee to make a mark. The arguments used by Giles Radice in the Treasury Select's attempt to win confirmatory powers over MPC appointments are just as persuasive in the context of the regulators.

Mr O'Neill, however, remains wary of setting up special confirmatory-style hearings while Parliament does not have any formal powers to veto appointments. Yet, a set-piece hearing would still provide an occasion to view the powerful senior regulators, as well as a chance to advertise the broader work of the committee. As the Treasury Select is demonstrated, the successful select committee can no longer live by report production alone.

MARKET LEADER

Top brands counter the fake's progress

A few years ago I was on holiday in Turkey. I came to a stall in a market where a local trader was selling fake Lacoste crocodiles for about £1 each. He explained that all you needed to do was sew one on your T-shirt to increase its value from £2 to £5.

Lacoste is one of those brands that has been so comprehensively counterfeited that its value has been impaired. But according to a study released today by CDR International, the brand protection consultant, some of the brands in which companies have made the heaviest investment are the ones most at risk from counterfeiters.

CDR conducted an unprompted survey of consumers to see how much they valued brands and how likely they were to buy "rip-off" products. When shown a white T-shirt, consumers said they would, on average, pay a 33 per cent premium if it carried a designer label. This uplift was even higher for those in the 16-35 age group, 37 per cent, or the C1 socio-economic group, who would pay 42 per cent more merely to have a designer label. However, just over half of consumers said they would buy good counterfeiters if they could, 72 per cent would be put off products if the goods had a reputation for being counterfeited and 41 per cent said that some brands were simply not worth buying because they were so commonly copied.

And so to the acid test: Which brands did consumers think were most likely to be counterfeited? Surprisingly, neither Gucci nor Louis Vuitton made the top five, presumably because not many of us shop on Italian or Hong Kong market stalls. The top five (in reverse order) were Levi Strauss, adidas, Rolex, Calvin Klein and, at the top, Nike. Given that Nike spends hundreds of millions of dollars a year on advertising, promotion and brand building, this must be a worry for the folk in Portland, Oregon.

Nike has reacted well to the threat of counterfeiting. Its brand innovation, sponsorship and general sure-footedness have kept its products one step ahead of

the guys with the sewing and photocopying machines. Also, by striking deals with the likes of the Brazil football team, the company is playing on supporters' loyalty to persuade them to buy Nike-branded products.

Nike is also known for its ethical stance on manufacturing. It has made a virtue of ensuring that its suppliers in the Third World do not use child labour and have good health and safety standards. CDR found that 84 per cent of consumers said they would not buy products made using child labour and 80 per cent would be put off products if the company had a bad environmental record. Of course, the only way to make sure that the products are produced ethically is to buy the genuine brands.

Close watchers of motor racing will notice a slight change in the livery of the Jordan Formula One racing car when it appears on the streets of Monte Carlo in next Sunday's Monaco Grand Prix. It is not a big change — such as the toning down of the Benson & Hedges logos on Damon Hill's and Ralf Schumacher's cars at the behest of the style experts at M&C Saatchi Sponsorship. It will merely be the appearance of NatWest's name alongside the Mastercard logo as a new type of sponsorship kicks in.

NatWest is the largest issuer of credit cards under the Mastercard brand in Europe. So when Mastercard decided to sponsor the Jordan cars, NatWest thought it might piggy-back the sponsorship. So it will be the sponsor for four European races — in Monaco this weekend, then Belgium, Germany and the British Grand Prix at Silverstone on July 12. NatWest refused to reveal the cost, but it is a fraction of what a full sponsorship might cost.

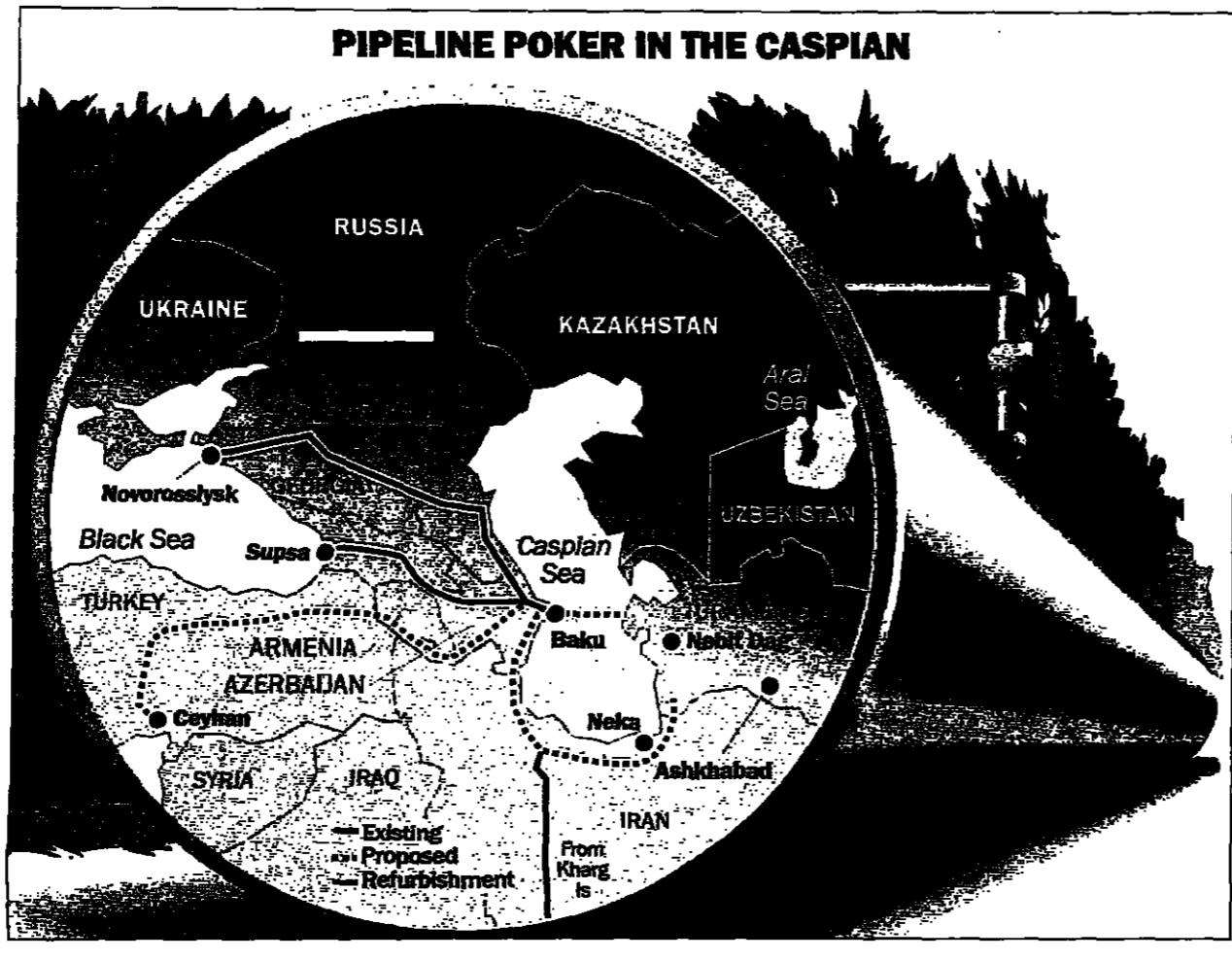
NatWest gets the chance of some promotion to support the sponsorship, including a competition that could see the winners being taken to the British Grand Prix and then, as soon as the race ends, flown to the World Cup final in Paris. Sounds great, but wait for the French air traffic controllers to mess it up.



JASON NISSE

Caspian pipe dreams could be the making of Monument

The drive for oil in a former Soviet region has started, says Michael Dynes



Beneath the blistering midday sun, Doug Henderson, Labour's Minister for Europe, will today preside over the inauguration of an obscure oilfield in a remote corner of Turkmenistan's unforgiving and relentless desert.

Surrounded by lakes of salt water, filthy pools of mud and oil, and miles after miles of rusty old Soviet drilling equipment, it will be an inauspicious occasion, attended by a handful of Western oil executives and a few local dignitaries, and all but ignored by the international media.

For Monument Oil and Gas, however, the British independent oil company developing the Barm field near Nebit Dag (Oil Mountain), the cash-hungry government of Turkmenistan, and the entire landlocked but resource-rich Caspian region, the significance of today's celebrations can hardly be exaggerated.

While less well-known than neighbouring Baku, Nebit Dag has been producing oil since the 13th century. It was exported all over Persia and India in leather bags for centuries before Christendom had even heard of oil. The first gusher was struck in 1876, and Alfred Nobel, one of the fathers of the modern oil industry, set up shop there in 1895. When Turkmenistan gained its independence from Moscow in 1991, the Russians abandoned everything and pulled out. Monument Oil stepped into this void shortly thereafter, in an effort to help Turkmenistan to break away from Moscow, and develop its resources independently.

Monument, whose chief executive is Tom Eggart, the former Conservative energy minister, has now identified the Caspian region as a "major asset" for its future development in what the company describes as "a region which

has one of the richest underdeveloped hydrocarbon basins in the world".

Although some geologists predict that the entire Caspian region could hold between 90 billion barrels (the size of Kuwait) and 200 billion barrels (the size of Saudi Arabia), less hysterical estimates have put the figure at a more modest "one or two North Seas". Nevertheless, the Caspian will come on stream just as the North Sea goes into decline, effectively preventing the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) from regaining a stranglehold on world oil prices.

Undeterred by the recent collapse in oil prices (which has seen Monument Oil's value plunge from £900 million to less than £500 million on the London stock market) it has pressed ahead with the development of a 2,000 sq km concession in Western Turkmenistan, which is now producing 10,000 barrels of oil per day (bpd). That could increase to 25,000 bpd by the year's

end, and 50,000 bpd at maximum production.

Admittedly, this is small beer by international standards. But continuing seismic surveys indicate that the field could, in the words of one company executive, "be much, much bigger". Moreover, Monument has just clinched a deal to explore and develop a nearby 18,000 sq km concession with increased production potential. Perhaps most significant of all, the Government has asked Monument to come up with ways to market Turkmenistan's reserves of natural gas, the fourth largest in the world.

But the good news ends there. Without access to consumer markets, oil and gas reserves, no matter how vast, are not worth the desert sands under which they lie. Unlike any other big oil producer around the world, the Caspian states — Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russia and Iran — are landlocked. Every proposed pipeline, moreover, is bogged down in a web of

political and economic complexities which are presenting the international oil industry with perhaps its biggest ever challenge.

All Turkmenistan's export routes to the north have been shut down since March 1997, after a dispute with Moscow over transit fees. Proposals to build a new eastern pipeline to China have been coasted in the region of \$9 billion (£5 billion), and remain little more than pipe dreams — at least for the foreseeable future. That leaves only the southern and western routes as options.

At present, Monument has been exporting small volumes of crude oil to Baku in neighbouring Azerbaijan, and from there by rail to the Black Sea port of Batumi. In March, it entered into a ten-year "swap deal" with Iran, whereby Turkmen oil can be delivered to Iran at the Caspian port of Neke, in exchange for similar volumes lifted from the Gulf.

In order to shift much larger volumes of oil, however, Monument would need a pipeline to Iran, either from Turkmenistan or Azerbaijan — a project that has widespread appeal among the big oil companies. But while the so-called southern route makes compelling commercial sense, it runs straight into the US orchestrated international investment blockade, under the 1996 Iran-Libya Sanctions Act, and the risk of economic sanctions for anyone investing more than \$20 million in Iran.

In addition to attempting to isolate Iran for its role in sponsoring international terrorism, Washington has also been trying to limit Tehran's influence in the development of the Caspian basin, for fear that it might seek to control the flow (and thus the price) of Caspian oil across its territory.

While Monument's swap deal does not breach the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act, a new pipeline would. But the deal struck between the US and Europe in London yesterday,

in which President Bill Clinton said that he would waive US sanctions against European firms, could bridge the transatlantic rift over how to deal with post-Khomeini Iran, and open up the way for a new pipeline to the south.

Heading west across the Caspian Sea is the remaining option. At present, the Azerbaijan International Operating Company (AIOC), the 11-strong consortium led by British Petroleum developing Azeri oilfields in the Caspian, is exporting about 100,000 bpd through an old Russian pipeline between Baku and Novorossiysk on the Black Sea. It is also rebuilding a similar-size pipeline between Baku and Supsa, which should come into operation early next year. With additional pumping capacity, both lines could handle up to 400,000 bpd.

But with the AIOC field expected to reach 800,000 bpd by 2005, extra pipeline capacity will have to be built. Proposals for a new \$3 billion main export pipeline between Baku and Ceyhan on the Turkish Mediterranean coast, capable of carrying one million barrels a day, are expected to be unveiled by October. It is this proposed pipeline, which could transform Monument Oil from an obscure British company into one of the key players in the Caspian basin.

Last Friday, the Governments of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey agreed to carry out a feasibility study on how to transport Caspian oil and gas — including Turkmen oil and gas — to the Mediterranean. The construction and operation of the main export pipeline will be a business in its own right. Oil executives expect that a new consortium, in which Azerbaijan will hold a 50 per cent stake, will shortly be assembled to build and operate the new pipeline.

Raising the estimated \$3 billion needed to get the project off the ground is likely to be a heroic task, especially as AIOC has made clear that it is unlikely to participate (although it will have to pay transit fees for using it). Nevertheless, it offers Monument, along with every other oil company seeking to tap the untold riches of the Caspian, a way out of their landlocked impasse.

Tough hurdle

AU REVOIR Alan Pascoe. A decade after founding the sports management company that bears his name, the former Olympic hurdler from the days when England was still good at athletics, is bowing out, having sold out to the US marketing giant, Interpublic. The writing was on the wall a year ago when the Yankees bought 60 per cent of Pascoe's business. Now they are taking the other 40 per cent and merging Alan Pascoe International with Advan-

tage, their US business, and CSI, the TV rights operation. As yet the operation does not have a name other than the UK parent company, Octagon, and that is hardly a compelling brand. Meanwhile Pascoe — a sprightly 50 — is sitting on an estimated £20 million of Interpublic shares and is setting up a fresh consultancy, which, he says, let him get closer to his clients. The first one will be the relaunch of British Athletics. A case of Pascoe going back to his roots.



week. On Saturday he was at Wembley, willing Arsenal to overcome Newcastle United in the FA Cup Final. According to my mole, Saunders was showing signs of the pre-senile dementia that plagued him during his spell in Ford Open Prison — and from which he later made a spectacular recovery. He seems to have forgotten he was a QPR fan.

Dad's girl

TALKING of old friends from the Guinness days, I hear that a certain Lisa Ronson has been appointed marketing director of Heron Leisure, part of Heron International. Could it be...? Yes of course it is. Lisa, who is 30-or-so, has joined the family firm after seven years in equity sales with Barclays de Zoete Wedd (as it was), which was once run by another old chum, Sir Martin Jacobm. Gerald Ronson, chief executive of Heron, has always said how he would like his four daughters to play a part in the business. Lisa will be responsible for promoting some fun projects in Madrid, Barcelona, Lille and Stockholm, which revolve around multiscreen cinemas, nightclubs and leisure retail. Just like the dealing room.

Losing face

COULD it be a case of a slit skirt too far for Liz Hurley, the Esteé Lauder covergirl who delights in showing

her ample attributes at every turn. Members of the Lauder family were over recently from New York, and are said by company sources to be growing a trifle miffed at some of Hurley's more visible antics. The expression "a loose cannon" has been circulating in Lauder's London offices. The upshot is the Lauders are thinking of dropping Hurley as the face of the cosmetic house after three eventful years in favour of someone altogether less outrageous, more demure, less disposed to attention-seeking stunts. Emma Noble, for instance.



Liz Hurley's publicity antics could damage her prospects

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Name game

WITH Brussels poised to rubber-stamp the merger of Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse, I hear that my old friend, Howard Hughes, a long-serving PW stalwart, is finally setting aside his calculator and pencil. Hughes, 60, is celebrating his impending retirement as PW world managing partner with a shindig for City scribes. Some tales will flow — including, no doubt, some fun recollections of Ernest "Alzheimer" Saunders, who was running Guinness in the days when Hughes was the lead audit partner on the account. This was Hughes's questioning of some dodgy invoices in November 1986 which saw the Guinness Affair erupt.

Who scored?

MEANWHILE, sporting Ernie has been spotted knocking back the tinned lager again at another top sporting event. This column reported the former Guinness boss cheering on Chelsea at the European Cup Winners' Cup final in Stockholm last

Equities tumble in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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GALLERIES
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Parker's objects
London show

THE TIMES ARTS

MIME
The return
of Marcel
Marceau
PAGE 38



String driven thing

The Kronos Quartet are celebrating 25 years of pioneering music-making. Nigel Williamson reports

Whether you think the Kronos Quartet are *enfants terribles* or visionary popularisers, one thing is certain: without them modern string quartet composition would have been greatly impoverished. For in its 25 years the Kronos, in London this month for a silver anniversary festival, has commissioned a staggering 400 works from contemporary composers, an average of 16 new quartets for every year of the group's existence and more than twice the number written by Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and Brahms.

Fritz Kreisler's exquisite recording of Dvořák's *Humoresque*. "The first note of that is the most sensual I ever heard. I have dreams about that note," he says.



Something new every day: clockwise from top, Hank Dutt, David Harrington, Joan Jeanrenaud and John Sherba.

My personal view leans strongly towards the visionary theory. I find the Kronos infinitely fascinating. It isn't just that they look like rock stars and think nothing of programming Jimi Hendrix alongside Stravinsky. It isn't even that they have single-handedly dispelled the image of the string quartet as an antique music of exclusively European origin played by men in dinner suits. That helps, but I think above all it is simply this: Kronos leader David Harrington and his colleagues John Sherba, Hank Dutt and Joan Jeanrenaud are musical junkies with an insatiable desire to search out the new, and who refuse to categorise music in neatly marketable pigeonholes.

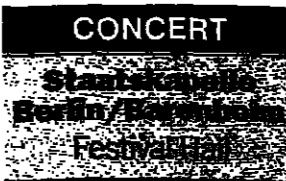
We didn't have anything to do with the content but we had a lot to do with choosing the moment to ask him. We have a lot of ideas like setting Ginsberg's *Howl* to music but it takes time to find the right composer. One of Kronos's strengths is giving creative people the confidence to reveal some of their most personal musical thoughts.

Environment, he believes, can change the drama and even the meaning of a piece of music. "We once happened to be playing in a museum surrounded by eight Mark Rothko paintings. Every time I looked up I saw all these colours blending with each other and making something new. I experienced the sound in a more sensual way than I ever had before. You can say that had nothing to do with the music but I think it had."

Rollercoaster gathers speed

The great Beethoven Bash has turned out to be surprising, provocative, and sometimes disconcerting. I came in halfway through the marathon of piano concertos and symphonies, in time for one or two of the gentler giants of the repertoire. But you would never have known it.

The "little" Eighth Symphony, for which Beethoven had a particular affection, and the Fourth, standing between the Third and Fifth like, in Schumann's words, "a slender Greek maiden between two Norse giants", became conquering heroes themselves. Barenboim's own gargantuan energy compressed almost palpably within his entire body, dominated everything. This, and an apparent need to show off the by no means flawless Staatskapelle Berlin as a sort of super-orchestra, generated considerable excitement — but also took its musical toll.



CONCERT

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A guide to the best available recordings, in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

FRANCK'S VIOLIN SONATA
Reviewed by William Mival
CESAR FRANCK achieved success as a composer really quite late in life, and he was well into his sixties when he completed his Violin Sonata, which he presented as a wedding present for a great Belgian violinist Eugene Ysaÿe.

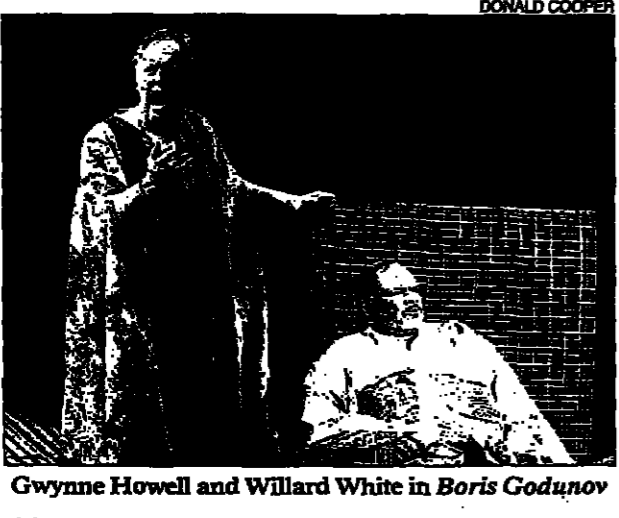
Since then it has become one of the most important works in the repertoire of any self-respecting virtuoso. It's not just a brilliant show-piece but a staggeringly musical one, and the music works as much magic on audiences as it does on its performers. Franck's Violin Sonata is available in recordings by some of the strongest musical personalities of the century, and virtually all of them have something, if not a great deal, to offer.

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SC0691, Farnes, 1/26 OBR or phone 0345 023 493; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk

Too much bare-faced chic

There was a bizarre surreal moment during the first performance of Welsh National Opera's new production of Mussorgsky's opera on Saturday: as the electronic bells — well managed — for Boris's coronation faded into nothingness, they merged imperceptibly with the sound of a mobile telephone going off in one of the boxes.

OPERA
Boris Godunov
New, Cardiff
just to hear what they would make of the Kromy Forest finale. The orchestral playing is magnificent, and Carlo Rizzi conducts with Italianate thrust, maintaining forward momentum in a score that can meander — he brought positively Verdian urgency to Pimen's long narration, sung with due gravity by the experienced Gwynne Howell.



Gwynne Howell and Willard White in Boris Godunov

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The cast is indeed promising: Willard White, bringing his inimitably rounded tone and treasurable musicianship to the title role; that fine tenor-actor Neil Jenkins as Shuisky; young John Daszak — bloody-mindedly made up to look much older than the 19 years repeatedly mentioned in the text — as the Pretender; smaller roles well filled, the only drawback a Xenia and Fyodor from whom scarcely a word was audible, while the other principals worked hard to get every syllable of the Lloyd-Jones translation across. So what goes wrong?
The ambition of David Pountney's production is abstract-contemporary. Huntley/Muir's permanent set has the look of a lightly bombed underground car park, with a rising and falling platform to one side and a wall of canteen chairs that collapses noisily for the final scene. Truncheons and automatic weapons are much in evidence, and the Hostess of the Inn presides

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Bold conceptions from destruction

Richard Cork finds himself challenged and invigorated by the installations of Cornelia Parker and Paul Huxley's acrylic abstracts

Ten years ago, in the Hertfordshire countryside, a steamroller thundered towards 1,000 pieces of silverware carefully laid out in a curving line. Goblets, teapots and a host of other gleaming utensils were all flattened. Then Cornelia Parker picked them up and set about making an installation from the squashed remains. Now, at the Serpentine Gallery, the installation has been recreated to become the most spectacular exhibit in Parker's largest-ever London exhibition.

Visitors to last year's Turner Prize show will recall how deftly and poetically Parker suspended, in a vertical downpour, the scorched fragments of a Texas church struck by lightning. They looked like black arrows falling towards the ground. Here, by contrast, the flattened silver plate has been ordered into a horizontal series of circular clusters, each dangling on thin metal wires from the ceiling.

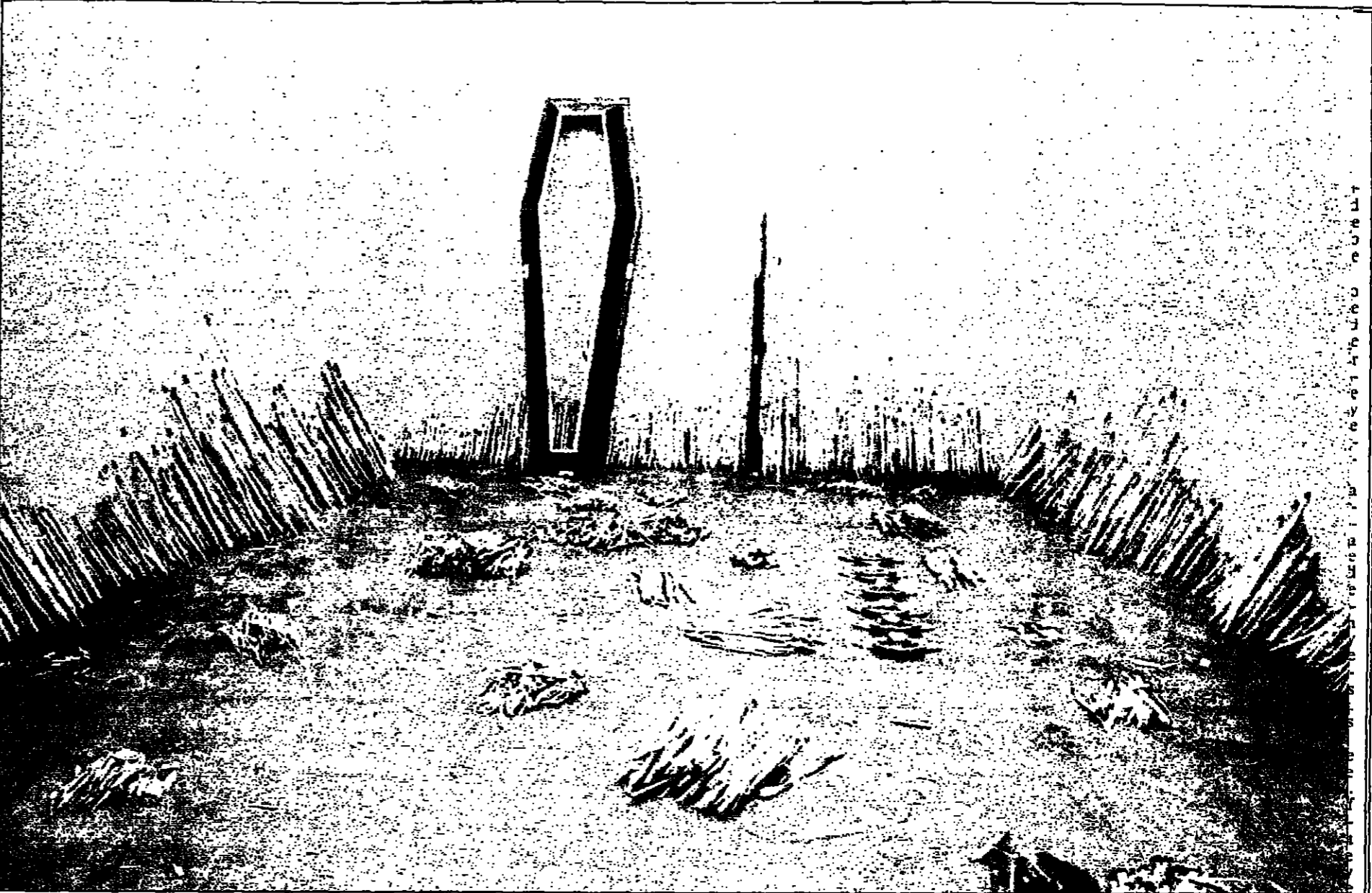
Parker has long been fascinated by the metamorphosis undergone by objects. She is prepared to inflict an alarming amount of violence on them, most dramatically when the British Army blew up a shed whose shattered contents were then transformed into her masterpiece, *Cold Dark Matter*. But aggression is always leavened with dry humour. More aware than anyone of the absurdity inherent in her actions, Parker relishes the irony involved in attacking and rendering useless silver-plated items normally regarded as prized wedding presents.

stallation, *Matter and What it Means*, counteracts Parker's lacerating comment on the values of the dead couple. The coins oscillate silently in the air-conditioned room, suggesting that both they and the corpses are still powered by an eerie source of energy.

Even when Parker's preoccupation with death is at its most overt, she hints at redeeming possibilities. Nothing could be more funereal than the installation called *Another Matter*, dominated by a coffin lid leaning against the far wall. Parker obtained it from an undertaker in Brazil and painstakingly dismantled the coffin's sides with a hammer and chisel. The traditional sculptural act of carving was thereby given a macabre new twist. Splintered pieces of slender wood lie around the lid, some stacked to resemble makeshift bonfires. Their ends have been dipped into match material, so the whole work seems about to ignite. Hence its strong sense of expectancy. Everything seems to be waiting for the end, but the prospect of flames ensures that the destruction will not be a muted, depressing affair.

Although Parker's installations and suspended sculptures are her most impressive achievements, the framed wall-works and showcase objects look better here than they did at the Turner Prize show. There, the room containing them was congested with proliferating exhibits. Here, generous amounts of white space surround them and they are easier to absorb.

rolled copy of *The Times*, dated April 22 1998, has a prominent position in a new work called *Shared Fate*. Trussed with string, it is gashed by the edge of the guillotine which sliced off Marie Antoinette's head. Similar wounds have been inflicted on the objects ranged beside it, including a loaf, a spotted tie and a shoe lace. But the ineffectiveness of the guillotine is all too evident. The keen blade has become as blunted as France's own revolutionary fervour, revealing once again the wryness of Parker's explo-



Waiting for a fiery end: a coffin lid dominates the room in Cornelia Parker's installation, *Another Matter*. The sides of the coffin have been splintered, and dipped in phosphorus

ration of our disintegrating world.

Paul Huxley retires this summer from the Royal College of Art, where he has been a notably open-minded Professor of Painting for the past 12 years. But he gives no sign, in his effervescent show at Jason & Rhodes, of slowing down.

On the contrary, the freshness and audacity of his large new canvases could easily be the work of a far younger artist. One of our most distinguished abstract painters, Huxley has been preoccupied for the last two decades by setting up oppositions within his pictures. He divides each of them into halves, and revels in the startling contrast between ordered geometry and whirling exhilaration. The sec-

tions on the right are restricted to cool, clear-cut oblongs, squares and other rectilinear forms. They could hardly be more at variance with their neighbours on the left, where Huxley indulges in a love of spiralling exuberance.

The differences are accentuated by his handling of acrylic paint. All the forms on the right are flat and impersonal, revealing scant trace of the artist's own mark-making. But their impetuous rivals on the left are enlivened by excited brushwork, coursing around the black lines that give them their fundamental rhythm. Huxley allows himself to be wilder, here, than he has ever been. The restless, interlocking undulations are made even more turbulent by

the splashed-down pigment. It surges so spontaneously that the vertical divisions between the two halves are constantly violated. The expansive forms on the left often spill over the central boundary line, invading the calmness of the other section.

The forms on the right are not discomfited, however. They retain their poise, and Huxley often delights in balancing one on top of the other like acrobatic performers leaping on each other's shoulders. While clearly the product of hairbreadth calculation, these geometric forms have the joyfulness of Matisse's painted paper cut-outs. Huxley sets up perceptual games with them, challenging us to speculate about how far they

might be receding or, conversely, projecting into our space. But the flatness of the paint returns our eyes to the surface of the canvas. We are aware, at all times, of Huxley's insistence on rigorous control.

In the left half of each picture, though, he gives vent to another, far more headlong side of his complex temperament. These vortex-like convolutions, reminiscent of labyrinthine motorways, flashing advertisements and other sensations of urban life at its most frenetic, disclose a new appetite for clangour. The high-keyed colours are often deliberately heated, giving a sensual, festive air to the paintings.

AROUND THE GALLERIES

THREE years ago Charles Saatchi brought a zesty group show of American artists to his London gallery. Many of the works were installations, which makes the prevalence of painters in this sequel exhibition so interesting. Here are Ashley Bickerton's *The Patron*, a witty portrait of a sprawling, TV channel-flipping tycoon; righthand, slobbering heads by Carol Dumbaum, and the dense abstracted networked canvases of Terry Winters, hailed by an American critic as the saviour of paint. Even Jessica Stockholm's bold assemblages of purple rugs and yellow cloths, of green apples and red cables seem to pay a painterly attention to colour. The tone of the pieces varies from the serious to the cheeky, from the wacky to the threatening. *Young Americans 2* at the Saatchi Gallery, 98A Boundary Road, NW8 (0171-624 8299) until July 12

fibreglass sculpture of a captures a sense of how fire and machine might interlate, while four giant photographs show a human figure writhing amid soft, snarling plumes of matter. In fact, his sculpture and photographs are based on magnified versions of blobs of oil paint as the figures are Finnegan himself, making each piece a representation of the way in which the artist struggles with his materials. *Paul Finnegan at Entwistle 6*, Cork Street, London V (0171-734 6440) until May 31

"IT WAS in this court that I began to learn painting," Graham Sutherland once wrote of the magnificent West Wales landscape. Last he donated several of his paintings to the Welsh, as these are displayed for couple of months a year different sites. This year show ranges from early, evocative Pembrokeshire watercolours to huge oil landscape in which a characteristic serene abstract style captures the tone of a land dominated by water and light. *Sutherland in Wales*, Turner House Gallery, Penarth (01222 573485/6) until July. RACHEL CAMPBELL JOHNSTON

■ YOUNG artists first made familiar by *Sensation!* are now to be found setting up one-man shows in galleries all over Britain. Paul Finnegan is the latest of these. His current exhibition continues to explore the melting and distortion of the physical world, the mutating of form into phantasmic chimera. A silvery

Going bananas over the Pennines

Paul Barker gets in training for *Artranspennine98*, a £2.7 million 200-mile cross-country art exhibition

Outside an Art Deco ventilation structure for the Mersey Tunnel, near Liverpool's Albert Dock, the Japanese sculptor Taro Chiezo has created an ironic warning about biotechnology. The *Super Lamb Banana* is lot of yellow ferro-concrete sculpture. Following on from Dolly the cloned lamb, it hypothesises a bio-engineered merger of animal and plant. It has echoes of Harry Harrison's classic sci-fi novel, *Make Room! Make Room!* (filmed, with Edward G. Robinson, as *Soylent Green*), which was about ending world hunger by creating an infinitely expanding edible fungus.

There was some objection to the lamb at first. Liverpool pioneered banana imports; this comic fruit pokes fun at a serious segment of Liverpool's history. And profits from shipping in frozen lamb (and beef) paid for the tower of the Neo-Gothic Anglican Cathedral. Should an outsider play artistic games with the city's past? But objections faded when it emerged that local sculptors would carry out Chiezo's design. Now, in an associated project, even children in schools will be working on their own mini-lamb bananas.

The banana is to be officially unveiled on Saturday as one of the westernmost items in *Artranspennine98*, Britain's largest-ever exhibition. Large-

est geographically, that is: at a cost of £2.7 million (£1.7 million of it from the National Lottery), *Artranspennine98* will stretch over town and country from Liverpool right across to Hull. The joint curators are Robert Hopper, the director of the Henry Moore Sculpture Trust at Leeds and Halifax, and Lewis Biggs, the curator of Tate Gallery Liverpool, just down the street from the big banana.

They are an intriguing double-act. Hopper looks like a jovial farmer, Briggs more like an ascetic priest. But they are men with a joint mission to overcome the east-west "psychological barrier" and create "a shared identity". Hopper says: "This is a region where you used always to think of things moving out from it. Or it was a region you passed through on your way to something. We want to show that it is something in itself."

Six of the exhibits will be at the Liverpool Tate, and mark its reopening after a £7 million reconstruction. But Hopper and Biggs see *Artranspennine98* as a further assault on "the primacy of the museum". This open "gallery", almost 200 miles long, is showing the work of more than 50 artists from 15 countries. The curators want it to "reinvigorate the debate about public art". It is, they argue, "a synthesis of art and place".

In Hull, Anya Gallaccio is constructing a gigantic sand castle. In the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, near Sheffield, the Spanish sculptor, Jaime Plensa, is installing his *Personal Miraculous Fountain* on an island in the middle of a lake. In Lancaster, the American Mark Dion is creating *The Tasting Garden* — a walled fruit garden. Near Bury, the German Ulrich Ruckriem has



Taro Chiezo's *Super Lamb Banana* under construction before becoming a Mersey exhibit in *Artranspennine98*

built a Lancashire Stonehenge from slabs and columns of granite.

The garden and the henge are built to last. So is a tribute to Josef Beuys — an oak tree and a basalt stone — outside the Henry Moore Institute in Leeds (this is a posthumous addition to the 7,000 Oaks project Beuys began in Germany in the 1980s). But Biggs treasures the evanescence of many of the projects. "Public art isn't about bricks and mortar," he says. "It's not about paving stones, laid down to last."

In four Forte hotels across the region the environmental artists, TEA, will show a road movie of northern landscapes, architecture and people. Another environmental project will go out on the Internet. Painting features nowhere.

How will people get round *Artranspennine98*? It will come with a guidebook rather than a catalogue. Biggs says: "You could say it's like doing the Munros [the 277 Scottish mountains over 3,000ft]. Some may want to climb them all. Others will be very happy with less." Hopper chips in: "It has no centre. The centre is where you happen to be." The artworks are complemented by 200 other events, from the schoolchildren's mini-ba-

nanas to a poetry day at Manchester Town Hall. The curators see it all as "a network" and hope that the many people who have worked on it — universities, arts bodies, local authorities — will continue to collaborate in the future.

Artranspennine98 ties into an economic and political crusade begun by an environmental campaigner, David Fletcher, who is based in Hebden Bridge, almost on the Yorkshire-Lancashire frontier. He lobbies both Westminster and Brussels, and he sits on *Artranspennine98*'s board. Fletcher, Hopper and Briggs all regret "Whitehall's policy of divide and rule" in this east-west region of 15 million people, 23 universities and a third of Britain's remaining manufacturing industry.

"Transpennine could become a parody of Los Angeles," Hopper says. "If you look at the map of the cities: hard surface almost all the way from Liverpool to Leeds." And Biggs gives warning: "It could also, as in the past, be each city against the others. We're trying to put this aside. Liverpool hasn't wanted even to talk about its big rival, Manchester. But Transpennine could become like the Rhineland: cities competing, but in a united region."

For *Artranspennine98* information, ring 0161-950 3523. The exhibition runs May 23-Aug 16

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A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mariët Hargre

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LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum Watercolours by J.M.W. Turner from the F.2.2017 Bequest (0171-323 8625) Design Museum: Ferdinand Porsche: Design...

ARTS Unspeakable titter tat

There is a silent travesty unfolding at the Old Vic that has nothing to do with the future of this venerable building...



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THEATRE

Bowler, a London taxman whose bowler hat becomes stuck to his head when he tries to buy a glamorous wife...

Marceau puts sugar in his millionth invisible cup of tea by elegantly stirring the air and rolling his eyeballs...

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LAW

Meet Mr Complaints

DEZIL MCNEELANCE



Scott: "We encourage people to sort it out — but the barrister is not the one who immediately thinks of saying 'Sorry'"

Mr and Mrs X had fallen out with their neighbour. Mrs Y. Mr X demolished Mrs Y's wall; police were called and he agreed to make amends but nothing happened for some time. During the delay, a barrister friend of Mrs Y wrote a letter to Mr X on his chambers notepaper, threatening to answer a charge under Section 1 of the Criminal Damage Act 1971 unless he took immediate steps to make reparation. The barrister had not been briefed or instructed by a solicitor.

Mr and Mrs X complained and the barrister was found to have breached his professional code of conduct by supplying a legal service without instructions, and for "discreditable behaviour" in writing threats on chambers headed notepaper. He was suspended from practice for two months.

The case is one of the first to be handled under the Bar's new complaints machinery set up in April last year. It is the profession's first public complaints system and is headed by an independent lay Complaints Commissioner, Michael Scott. The idea was to offer people a speedier, more consumer-friendly service. Crucially, it also enabled people to complain about shoddy work or "inadequate professional service" as well as the more serious complaints of professional

The Bar has set up the profession's first complaints system. Frances Gibb reports on the first year under its new chief

misconduct, which was all that they could do before.

It also involves lay people in that they sit on the panel adjudicating complaints of shoddy work, such as delay, rudeness, arrogance or not obeying instructions.

Last weekend Mr Scott, a former major-general, presented his first annual report to the Bar Council. "My view is that there's a line between a number of complaints which are healthy and where it becomes unhealthy and you can detect a thread of inadequacies in the system. I don't believe there is that thread. We live in a consumerist society and people are quick to reach for their lawyers."

He also points out that with 9,400 barristers in private practice, the complaints remain small in number and amount to about one per 1,700 cases or pieces of work handled by barristers. So the Bar's fears of barristers being deluged by dissatisfied litigants or convicted prisoners have not materialised. But if a system is to work, it must, he argues, be open, advertise itself and be available to people.

So far, he has looked at 532 cases of

which 326 have been finalised. He referred 40 per cent or 140 to the professional conduct and complaints committee; the rest were dismissed. In 65 cases — about half of them — there was found to be shoddy work or the more serious professional misconduct.

He would also like more explanation given to people about the Bar's immunity from being sued for negligence — an immunity which consumer groups and others now argue should go. It means they cannot be sued over their work in court. And finally, he says, barristers can do more to avoid complaints in the first place. "The last thing I wish to do as a layman is to patronise barristers. But people going into court with no experience of courts or lawyers can be very intimidated. Perhaps some of the younger ones who have battled their way to becoming a barrister could be quite pleased with themselves and a bit short with someone who has not the same grey cells as they have."

The Bar, he says, must remember the importance of client care and of the need to treat clients as one would wish to be treated by a fellow professional.

HOW TO PREVENT PROBLEMS

- Communicate: explain why the judge/jury did what they did, why a witness was not summoned, why a question not asked, why you have turned up when another barrister was expected, the relationship between a barrister and solicitor.
- Do not ignore client in conference with instructing solicitor.
- Avoid jargon (*prima facie*, affidavit, Calderbank Offer, McKenzie Friend). You are by definition clever — you do not have to prove it.
- Give client courtesy and care.
- Remember, saying sorry is not an admission of guilt.
- Get clerk to answer all letters and calls.

HOW MANY MOANS

Complaints to Dec. each year	Number
1993	347
1994	359
1995	446
1996	431
1997	551

Source: Complaints Commission annual report, 1997/8

Political meddling in rights is wrong

Nothing can be more fantastical than the distribution of prizes in the lottery of legal promotion," as Lord Chancellor Campbell observed 150 years ago. His thesis is confirmed by the procedures adopted for the appointment of the first British Judge to the new European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

The court has the difficult task of deciding whether states have breached the European Convention on Human Rights. Because of the growth in business, the new court will sit on a permanent basis from November, replacing the existing part-time court and the lower body, the European Commission of Human Rights. There will be a judge from each contracting state, to be chosen by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe from a shortlist of three candidates nominated by the country concerned.

The integrity of the system demands that the Parliamentary Assembly should perform its vital function by adopting a transparent and fair procedure which promotes confidence that persons of independence and expertise will be appointed, and which guarantees that irrelevant political considerations can play no part in the process. The procedure recently applied by the Parliamentary Assembly dismally failed these tests.

This was no fault of the United Kingdom, which performed its task in an exemplary manner. The Government adopted objective criteria for appointment to the post. The interview panel included two judicial members, Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Rodger of Earlsferry, the Lord President. This resulted in the list of three preferred candidates, at the top of which was placed Nicolas Bratza, QC, to general approval.

Without disrespect to the other excellent candidates on the shortlist (Robert Reed, QC, a Scottish silk, and Mr Justice Carnwath), Mr Bratza was plainly the best-qualified applicant. After appearing in more cases before the Commission and the Court than any other British advocate, Mr Bratza has, since 1993, served with distinction and conspicuous independence as the British representative on the European Commission of Human Rights. It takes special qualities to be the favoured candidate of the Government and of human rights organisations.

It was at this stage that strange events occurred. The Parliamentary Assembly consists of politicians from the various member states. There are 18 from the UK, 12 of them Labour Party representatives. One of the Labour members, Lord Kirkhill, was the chairman of a sub-committee of the Legal Affairs Committee, which decided that it

preferred Mr Reed to Mr Bratza. It so recommended to the Parliamentary Assembly. It did so on the basis of reading the CVs of the three listed candidates, and a short interview. No reasons were given for not following the preference of the UK.

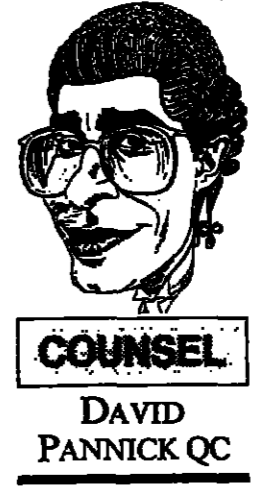
Justice was done because, by a vote of 89 to 79, the Parliamentary Assembly rejected the advice of Lord Kirkhill's sub-committee, and voted in favour of Mr Bratza. There are evidently some hard feelings because another Labour member of the Parliamentary Assembly, Kevin McNamara, MP, tabled nine questions to the Foreign Office Minister Tony Lloyd earlier this month suggesting that the Government had been at fault in not accepting the views of Lord Kirkhill's sub-committee.

The central point which Mr McNamara and some of his colleagues may not understand is that when the Parliamentary Assembly appoints judges, it is obliged to adopt a fair and open procedure. The assembly's politicians should not readily depart from the conclusions reached by an objective national procedure such as that already carried out by the UK. They should substitute their own views only if so advised by independent experts after a thorough assessment. And they should give reasons for their decisions.

No reasons were given by the sub-committee for rejecting the UK's preference for Mr Bratza. It is impossible to conceive of any good reason. So Mr McNamara and his colleagues cannot be surprised if observers are concerned that the reasons may have been bad. Whatever the unstated motives for the sub-committee's judgment, the existing procedure contains inadequate safeguards to prevent political considerations from influencing decisions on the appointment of judges. Nothing could be more damaging to the reputation of the judicial system, and the advancement of human rights, than partisan manoeuvring in a context where politics has no place.

In *The Federalist Papers*, a founding father of the American Constitution, Alexander Hamilton, explained the difficulty in finding suitable judges. There are few people, he said, "who will have sufficient skill in the laws", and, "after making the proper deductions for the ordinary depravity of human nature", there are even fewer who "unite the requisite integrity with the requisite knowledge". If candidates for the post of judge at the European Court also have to satisfy an unfair and inefficient procedure, then the court's performance, and its reputation, will be seriously impaired.

The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



DAVID PANNICK QC

Shock view: law is about people

LORD IRVINE of Lairg's apartments may have become a byword for extravagance and luxury — but the opulence associated with their refurbishment has not rubbed off on his own government department.

Last week Sir Hayden Phillips, the new Permanent Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department, threw open the doors of his office for a media reception. Without even a whiff of Pugin, the apartment could

THOUSANDS OUT

not have been more austere. The canapés, crisps and peanuts perfectly complemented the décor.

Sir Hayden was engagingly unstuffy: a non-lawyer, he confessed to disliking all the legal jargon that he now finds himself dealing with. It gets in the way, he lamented, of remembering that the law is about people. Things are certainly going to change.

Jail TV
UNTIL NOW, most television phone-in crime shows have

been devoted to putting people who have committed crimes behind bars. Now Channel 4 has come up with a programme whose mission is to get people who have been put behind bars let out. A new series, presented by David Jessel of *Trial and Error* fame, will highlight the cases of potential victims of miscarriages of justice and appeal to the public to help them to demonstrate their innocence.

Clear My Name will be broadcast from a wing of the decommissioned Oxford Prison and starts on May 31.

Strong man into battle

MICHAEL NAPIER, the leading personal injuries lawyer and senior partner of Irwin Mitchell, is to stand for the presidency of the Law Society — in a challenge to Michael Matthews of Clifford Chance, who is at present the vice-president.

A lifelong legal aid lawyer, Napier could be a shrewd choice at a time when the Government is scrapping legal aid for personal injury work. Some Law Society council members do not want another year of contested elections.

But Napier, 51, whose commitment to the firm prevented his standing two years ago — believes that the time is right.

"Access to justice is not a political football," he says. "Our ability to provide a service to our clients is under serious



Napier: challenge threat from the Government and others. "At this watershed time for solicitors, the profession needs the strongest possible leadership."

American switch

WHAT a week it has been for Weil Gotshal & Manges. Just as the American law firm scoops Mike Francies, a leading corporate finance partner from the City firm Clifford Chance, for its London office, it loses Denis Block, one of America's leading mergers and acquisitions lawyers, from its New York office.

Mr Francies may bring in annual billings of about £3 million, but Mr Block is taking £9 million worth of business with him. And Mr Block's reason for leaving the firm after 25 years? According to the *New York Law Journal*, he had a difference of opinion with the firm over how it should be growing abroad.

Possibly a comment on the rapid growth of the firm's London office.

IBA battle
THE International Bar Association seems to be building up for another bloody succession battle at its conference in Vancouver in September. A member, Selinda Melnik,

has written to committee officers asking for their "urgent help" to ensure that its secretary-general, Dianna Kemp, the only woman in the IBA's hierarchy, is elected to the position of vice-president.

In a bitter internal wrangle, Ms Kemp was forced to stand aside two years ago in favour of a male candidate, and it seems that history is about to repeat itself.

Ms Melnik says: "Dianna's very presence as an officer has demonstrated to women lawyers and law students that they have a viable place within the IBA. In response, the number of women members has increased dramatically."

This goodwill, she says, could be jeopardised if Ms Kemp is pushed aside again.

WHO said all conveyancing solicitors were penniless? This winter a company called the Lawyers' Education Club is holding a six-day residential course in Madeira featuring lectures on, among other things, conveyancing. For £1,200, solicitors will be flown to the island for a mix of lectures, socialising and golf.

To the rescue
THE Free Representation Unit, a small charity through which young lawyers and law students act free of charge for people before tribunals, is in financial difficulties.

It may be forced to make redundant its only qualified solicitor who in 1997-98 acted for 90 members of the public, winning £285,000 in compensation. Last year the unit celebrated its 25th anniversary and won plaudits all round.

Let's hope that some of those supporters come to the rescue. Donations to 49-51 Bedford Row, London WC1 4LR.

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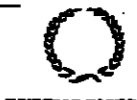
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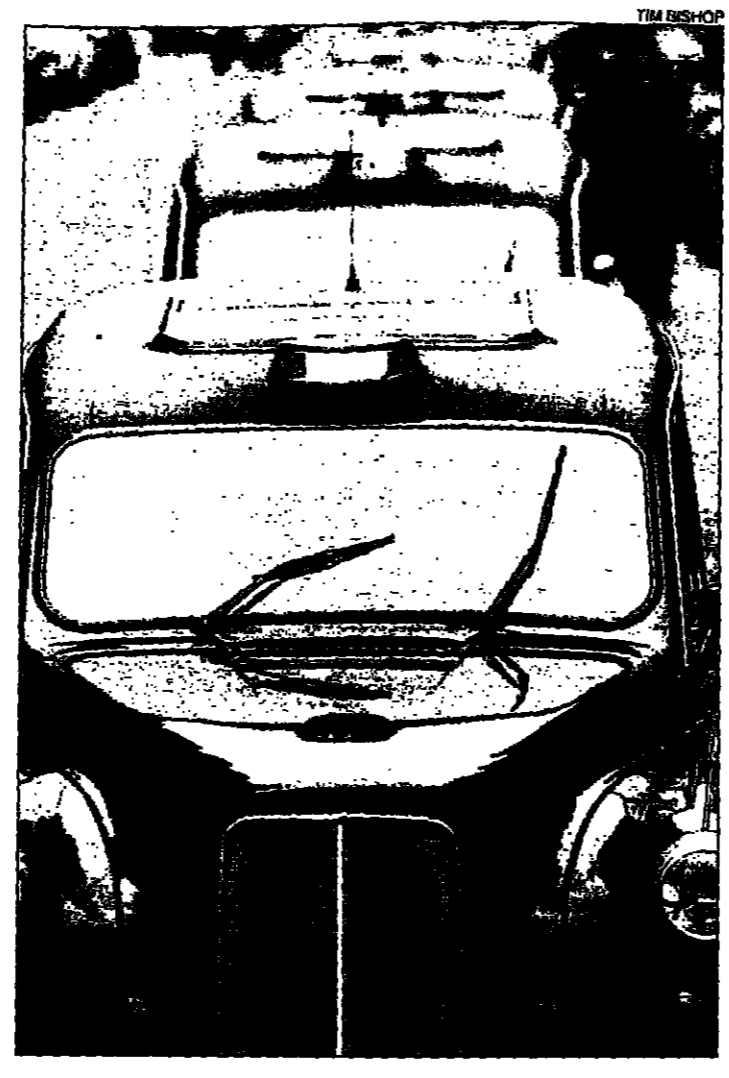
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Cab rank ruled out?

The Bar is at the forefront of the opposition to government plans to expand "no win, no fee" work to all civil disputes from July. The move, according to the profession, will destroy the Bar as a profession of fee-earning advocates by forcing fundamental changes to the way barristers organise themselves. That, in turn, will hit consumer choice.

The profession's fears were voiced at the weekend by Dan Brennan, QC, vice-chairman of the Bar and a leading personal injuries lawyer. He said that to expand no-win and to scrap legal aid for injury claims could put at risk the independent nature of the Bar.

Under "no win, no fee" work, barristers would be unable to remain sole practitioners because of the risks involved in taking on claims. Instead they would be forced into partnerships or joint ventures to share the risk - in effect, forced to work more like solicitors.



In the first of three articles on the impact of the Government's legal reforms, Frances Gibb looks at how 'no win, no fee' work may affect the Bar

The result, Mr Brennan claimed, would be "dramatically reducing the public's choice of advocate". At present, barristers from the same chambers can, and do, act on different sides of the same dispute. But barristers within any kind of starting arrangement would be barred from acting in a case with one of his partners. Mr Brennan said the system was also open to abuse. "Retainers could be sent to someone in the group deliberately to prevent the other side in a case being able to instruct their chosen barrister."

The changes are likely to end the Bar's cherished cab-rank principle, which requires barristers - in principle at least - to take cases as they come, in strict rotation. Not only will people be unable to choose a barrister in the same partnership as another, barristers will be free to turn down "no win, no fee" work altogether. They will be able to pick and choose more freely than now, although in reality, busy barristers can always choose their work, pleading they are already "booked".

The Bar argues that the changes will damage public access to the profession and consumer choice. There is also a further unspoken fear: that of "fusion", of a merged profession where the distinction between barristers and solicitors is blurred, and all lawyers are advocates or non-advocates.

Yet the public battleground remains consumer access to law. The aim of the reforms is to improve access to justice, at least

for the huge band of "middle-income Britain" who are now disenfranchised from the legal system because they cannot obtain legal aid, nor afford legal fees.

Last week the Bar threw more fuel on its case with a report from the City solicitors Biddle & Co, which backs its "brave new world" scenario. Either barristers will be forced into joint ventures, or be unwilling to do no-win fee work, leaving young inexperienced barristers doing the work. The result, the report says, could be reduced access to justice.

To Heather Hallett, QC, the Bar Council Chairman, such changes would be of concern. "We are a referral profession and such a change would strike at the way we work. Also, if you have partnerships between barristers - does it end there? What about partnerships then between barristers and accountants, for instance?"

But some barristers are already embracing "no win, no fee" work with alacrity. They believe that such arrangements are possible within the way the Bar is now organised. And they do not believe that it will mean the demise of the profession "as we know it".

Derek Marshall, the deputy head of College Chambers in Southampton, where the 16-strong set has taken about 50 "no win" cases, says: "We think that the reforms have a great future. There is no point being negative about them: they are going to happen."

He disagreed that barristers would be unwilling or unable to take on the cases. "We do it here," he says, "using a special protocol or procedure. For instance, we make sure that any decision by a barrister to do a 'no win, no fee' case has a second opinion. We discuss the case with the solicitor, assess the risk, then write an opinion agreeing what our uplift in fees should be, according to the risk." The solicitors agree to charge the same uplift.

Mr Marshall thinks that changes have had to be made in how barristers work, but not necessarily changes for the worse. He says: "You have to become more like solicitors. You have to see the papers more often and earlier on. You have to make a note of when the next thing has to be done. You are really co-venturing with the client and solicitor."

This is not how it works now. With an ordinary case, he says, if a solicitor is proceeding slowly, "we still get paid anyway, but with 'no win, no fee' arrangements you have to keep tabs on it and make sure it is moved along."

The chambers uses "trusted" firms, introducing an element of monitoring from the Bar over solicitors and the other way round. Most cases have been personal injury claims, although the chambers has also taken a few insolvency cases.

"There is no real financial risk," he says. "Yes, we lost a case the other day, so that was the cost of the petrol and two days of my time. Overall, though, the profits on the winning cases have more than offset my losses. And if you lose, then the old *pro bono* case is no bad thing."

Mr Marshall accepts that some people who now obtain legal aid will not find a lawyer prepared to bring their cases; there will be losers under the reforms. But they will also enable people to bring good claims who at present cannot do so. "I expect the work to be a major part of our income within the next five years."

● NEXT WEEK: the reforms and solicitors



A more informal court: Audrey Damazer, justices' clerk, centre, with Nicholas Crichton and Christine Field

Should children who commit crimes be dealt with in the criminal courts? No, says Nicholas Crichton, and he should know: he is the only stipendiary magistrate in England and Wales to deal solely with family law cases. Mr Crichton believes that the "criminal milieu" of a magistrates' court makes it unsuitable for dealing with children's problems. He sits in the Inner London and City Family Proceedings Court, the first magistrate court to concentrate exclusively on family law. It marked its first anniversary last month.

The court hears a wide range of public and private law cases, including applications by local authorities for care orders and by parents for contact and residence orders. Mr Crichton says that the need for family cases to be brought under one roof grew out of the Children Act 1989.

"I think that the Act is the most constructive piece of legislation to come out of 17 years of Tory government," he says. "Since it was implemented, a feeling is growing that the criminal milieu of a magistrates' court is not the right place to deal with children's problems."

Until April last year, family cases from the 12 Inner London boroughs were heard either at Marylebone Road Magistrates' Court complex or at one of five satellite courts.

"Parents could be sitting in Highbury Corner, where the court list was overloaded, and be asked to dash off to Marylebone or Camberwell," Mr Crichton says. "We were

A child needs a law unto itself

always losing people - they couldn't find the new court, it was time to collect children from school or they just didn't turn up."

Now all those cases are centralised at the new court, which took over the old Wells Street Magistrates' Court building. It is expensive to run, but the benefits include much greater flexibility in listing cases, with up to six courtrooms available daily.

With Mr Crichton as the permanent family stipendiary, the court can hear cases lasting up to five days. There is also a dedicated team of 13 clerks, all but one legally qualified. A clerk's directions court sits daily and a court welfare officer is there every morning.

The courtrooms have cream walls, wooden desks set in a circle, with soft pink chairs and blue carpets and no hint of a dock. The waiting areas offer information on mediation and support groups and there is a playroom full of toys.

Mr Crichton, a solicitor in private practice specialising in chil-

den's work before becoming a stipendiary magistrate 11 years ago, says: "There is a tremendous feeling among the 48 members of staff here that they are involved in something new and important. We are dealing with a lot of sadness and trauma. Many cases involve emergency protection orders for babies suffering from drug withdrawal or foetal alcohol syndrome. But we are part of the process of moving things forward, and that makes it feel worthwhile."

Janette Butler, a partner specialising in child cases at Fisher Meredith, says: "It is geared for families and also helps people to know that they are going to the same court every time."

Audrey Damazer, the court justices' clerk, says that it deals with about 120 contact and residence cases and 60 local authority care order applications a month. Other orders include declarations of parentage and secure accommodation orders. Last October the court took on wider jurisdiction for domestic violence cases under the Family Law Act 1996, issuing 27 non-molestation orders, 19 orders at emergency *ex parte* hearings and 14 occupation orders to the end of February.

Christine Field, who chairs the panel of 160 lay magistrates sitting at the court, says: "Tensions between mothers and fathers who have not resolved their difficulties can be palpable. The setting here helps us to deal gently with those tensions."

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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<p>5 Northwood Street London EC2A 1BQ Tel: +44 171 477 1400 Fax: +44 171 477 1444</p> <p>GARFIELD ROBBINS LONDON • SYDNEY</p> <p>1, 29, The Chifley Tower 2 Chifley Square Sydney NSW 2000 Tel: +612 9375 2181 Fax: +612 9375 2185</p>	<p>COMMERCIAL/CORPORATE 2 to 5 Years Qualified Literally doubled in size in the last twelve months and still expanding, the corporate department of this City practice is seeking a two to five year qualified solicitor to assist with an ever increasing number of quality transactions. No silly hours and a good education programme with realistic partnership prospects. Ref: T04775.K.</p> <p>COMMERCIAL PROPERTY - SYDNEY Partnership Are you a senior commercial property lawyer currently working in a leading London practice looking to return to Australia? Now is the time to make your move. Two highly regarded Australian firms are currently seeking property experts to lead their Sydney property teams. One practice focuses on general commercial property and urban development, the other structured property in the tourism and leisure industries. Ref: T807-810.G.</p>	<p>CONSTRUCTION 5 to 10 Years Qualified Leading niche construction firm is looking for senior lawyers to handle a broad caseload concentrating on quality and technical contentious matters. Candidates must have an ability to develop existing and new clients. This profile US and non US clients. Followings welcome but not essential. Ref: T90016.L.</p> <p>OIL AND GAS/UTILITIES 2 Years Qualified to Partnership The premier energy practice of this dynamic City firm offers the highest quality work in energy and utilities, advising on oil and gas, electricity, roads, railways and infrastructure transactions, as well as water projects. Position offers considerable travel and prospects are superb as the group is extremely busy and actively expanding. Ref: T00521.J.</p>	<p>CORPORATE - US FIRM Partner Ready for a fresh challenge? The London office of a major US firm is seeking a corporate partner who together with excellent technical skills has a flair for marketing and is ad hoc projects from start through to end this position will be involved in the development, manufacturing and marketing of a range of innovative products. A legal background coupled with a keen interest in the industry are essential. Ref: T04863.E.</p> <p>PENSIONS 4 Years + Qualified Heavyweight national practice is now seeking top quality pensions talent for positions within its London and nationwide offices. Senior lawyers are required to service invaluable advice to the offshore banking industries. As the firm's sole lawyer you will be expected to provide a broad range of legal advice at a commercial level. Banking experience and management skills are a pre-requisite as well as knowledge of managing both legal and banking transactions. Ref: T04863.E.</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVISERS 1 to 2 Years Qualified An exciting opportunity has arisen to join a leading pharmaceutical research company. Working on a variety of ad hoc projects from start through to end this position will be involved in the development, manufacturing and marketing of a range of innovative products. A legal background coupled with a keen interest in the industry are essential. Ref: T04863.E.</p> <p>BANKING/SOLE LAWYER 3 Years + Qualified As part of a major high street bank this company provides invaluable advice to the offshore banking industries. As the department's sole lawyer you will be expected to provide a broad range of legal advice at a commercial level. Banking experience and management skills are a pre-requisite as well as knowledge of managing both legal and banking transactions. Ref: T04863.E.</p>
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This rare opportunity will allow two junior assistants to be trained into IT law. A good grounding in commercial law and well developed drafting skills are prerequisites. The group, consisting of 3 partner, 1 6th year associate and two juniors, handles all aspects of IT work: Internet-related matters, outsourcing, and software licensing for management consultancies, financial institutions and software developers. Ref: 6643. Contact: Peter Gooden.

INSOLVENCY 4-6 YEARS

This rapidly expanding US/UK firm have recently recruited one of the best known young Corporate Recovery lawyers in London to head up the brand new practice area. As number two, you will have to have first rate technical skills, enjoy marketing, be willing to mentor junior members of the team as it grows and be ready for the challenge. The role offers unvalued prospects. Ref: 6886. Contact: Peter Gooden.

4-6 Years' PQE

To £85,000

PENSIONS/INVESTMENT FUNDS

(Hong Kong) x 2 To Partner Level
By the millennium, pension provision in HK will become mandatory. As a result, an opportunity has arisen for two lawyers with a minimum of 4 years' relevant experience to help build and co-ordinate an exciting team of one partner, one consultant and four associates currently handling fund management (retail, opened ended funds etc), pensions (setting up the new mandatory provident funds) and compliance issues. Ref: 6582. Contact: Peter Gooden.

COMPETITION LAWYERS x 2 - Brussels 0-5 Years' PQE

Following the appointment of a second partner earlier this year, the Brussels office of this UK firm continues to expand. It now seeks two UK qualified lawyers: a junior NQ to 2 years PQE and a more senior with 3-5 years PQE. You will handle an eclectic and high profile caseload on behalf of major US, UK and European Union clients. Ref: 6582. Contact: Scott Gibson.

INSURANCE LITIGATION - Hong Kong 1-4 Years' PQE

The Hong Kong office of this noted litigation firm is seeking two associates (1-4 years' PQE) to join its 5 partner and 15 associate team. Your caseload will include: insurance/commercial litigation and professional indemnity work. A speedy response is encouraged as the recruiting partner will be in London for the week commencing 22nd May. Ref: 6886. Contact: Scott Gibson.

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Banking Law

1-3 years' post-qualification
This is a very responsible position in a major pan-European institution, which has a high-profile political as well as economic role. Working as part of the legal team servicing the bank's treasury team, you will use your 5+ years' post-qualification experience in your 4+ years' post-qualification role to lead the work on cross-border capital markets transactions. Ref: B48100



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In the 1990s, the firm has acted as counsel in global offerings amounting to in excess of \$60 billion. The London office plays an active role in this firm-wide practice. It is also heavily involved in a range of other transactions including privatisations, mergers and acquisitions, investment funds and project financings. The office has particular expertise in the telecommunications sector.

The firm's London office is now looking for its first UK corporate hire. If you are between 3-7 years' qualified and able to participate in a range of corporate and finance related transactions, you will be rewarded with the finest New York salary and a real opportunity for future partnership with this pre-eminent firm.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Greg Abrahams on 0171 405 6062 (0161 436 4863 evenings/weekends) or write to him at QD Legal, Confidential Fax: 0171 831 6384

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Secretary of CWS

Manchester

£125,000 + Benefits

Founded in 1863 CWS, a co-operative society, registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, is the largest consumer co-operative in Europe, operating a family of businesses in food and non-food retailing, banking, insurance, farming, funerals, travel, optical, garages and the dairy trade. It has a pivotal trading role in the Co-operative Movement. Its aim and objectives include co-operative and ethical values and principles.

Following the early retirement of Roger Jones as the Society's Secretary, a successor is now required to join the management team which, under the leadership of Graham Melmoth, has been restructured over the last two years.

The Secretary has a wide ranging legal, commercial and secretarial role at the heart of one of the UK's largest trading operations. Responsibilities include all legal services, operation of the Secretary's office, pensions, insurance and the administration of the head office facilities.

This is a high profile position within the Co-operative Movement with the opportunity of an increasing role within the CWS.

Candidates should be young, high calibre lawyers and/or chartered secretaries able to demonstrate a track record of success, appropriate experience and ideally have an understanding of, and empathy for, mutual and co-operative organisations.

All interested candidates should send Roger Hoyle a detailed CV, including current remuneration, and quoting reference number 80502 on both CV and envelope.



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DB Dun & Bradstreet

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£Attractive plus benefits

Dun & Bradstreet is the world's leading provider of business information products and services. They are seeking a dynamic lawyer to join their UK headquarters based in High Wycombe.

The successful candidate will be expected to handle an interesting and varied workload to include advising on data distribution and collection, product development and marketing literature, intellectual property rights and competition law. The work will also include the negotiation and drafting of commercial agreements and litigation matters in addition to liaising with General Counsel in the US.

The ideal candidate will have 2-4 years' PQE with an in-house commercial background and the ability to work autonomously, making independent judgments. Experience of IP, IT and data protection are desirable.

This is a unique opportunity for a commercial lawyer to join a global market leader. If you would like to discuss this exciting opportunity, please contact Lynne McCarroll, retained consultant.

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Banking Lawyers

1-3 years' ppe



WestLB is a leading European banking institution with a Standard & Poors' rating of AA+, offering global commercial and investment banking capabilities. Its London Branch was established 25 years ago and provides integrated banking services to major corporates, government bodies and other financial institutions.

London is the focal point for European business development, leading to a marked increase in volume and complexity of business. WestLB's strong balance sheet and high credit rating makes it an obvious choice for clients seeking expertise in corporate banking, treasury products, trade finance and syndications. In addition, the bank is currently expanding its capabilities in structured finance and securitisation in London.

Consequently, the legal Department is expanding with the recruitment of two further lawyers, who will enjoy ample scope to be actively involved in all of these areas.

Suitable candidates will have:

- 1-3 years' post qualification experience
- a broad banking and finance background with a thorough knowledge of corporate lending, and
- a desire to offer day-to-day advice and transactional support across the whole range of commercial banking operations, working closely with sales, trading and marketing professionals.

These positions represent an ideal first move out of private practice for candidates seeking a varied and stimulating role in-house without becoming over-specialised. The successful applicants will benefit from a high degree of autonomy in an environment where a pragmatic, commercial approach is valued.

Offering a competitive salary, bonus and full banking benefits, these unusually broad roles provide a challenging and satisfying alternative to private practice.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact our retained consultants Stuart Morton or Deborah Kirkman on 0171 606 8844 or write to them at: Chambers Banking & Finance, 23 Long Lane, London EC1A 9HL. Confidential fax: 0171 600 1793. All direct or third party applications will be forwarded to Chambers Banking & Finance



Licensing Manager

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London

Mondex International Ltd, a subsidiary of MasterCard International, is a world leader in the development of leading edge smart-card products and services. In addition to Mondex electronic cash, Mondex International Ltd has developed MULTOS, the first open high-security multi-application operating system for smart-cards.

Our technology has a key part to play in the advancement of this unique market by developing new applications for the MULTOS platform such as loyalty programmes, mass transit, and pay TV.

This is a critical role that will help to drive the company through a significant phase of expansion. Reporting to the senior management team, you will be responsible for

devising and implementing licensing agreements for Mondex technology. This will involve developing relationships and structuring agreements with existing and new Mondex partners to ensure that the company generates appropriate revenues from, and maintains control of, the usage of their intellectual property.

A legal professional, you will have a demonstrable track record in developing licensing agreements, ideally for companies operating within a high-technology market. It is likely that your current role no longer challenges you and you would relish the opportunity to demonstrate commercial acumen within a dynamic environment where autonomy and empowerment are the norm.



To apply, please send your CV with a covering letter, including daytime telephone number and current salary details, to Harvey Nash plc, 13 Bruton Street, London W1X 7AH. Tel: 0171 333 0023. Fax: 0171 333 0022. Please quote reference number: SM1257. You may also apply via http://maps.com/Harvey_Nash

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PROPERTY

Urgent and engaging assistant with experience gained with a regional or London practice is sought by this City firm which features prominently in the league tables for commercial property. Offering particular expertise in property investment, development and management work, our client's practice continues to grow and attract high profile work. The group is very friendly and forward-thinking and seeks a like-minded solicitor. Ref: 5311. Contact: Jane Glassberg.

SUMMER '98 QUALIFIERS

Unsure about where you'll be in 4 months time? Unlikely to be an opening in the department of your choice? We have received numerous specific instructions from NQ's, particularly in company/commercial, finance (banking and corporate), property, employment, pensions/employee benefits, IT and telecoms. If you are thinking of moving or merely seek career advice, please contact us for help and informed advice. Contact: Jane Glassberg.

ENERGY

Leading energy practice in City seeks one junior and one more experienced assistant to join its substantial team. With a strong presence in the market for international projects work, you will be involved in high quality construction and electricity related work. In addition, the firm's oil and gas and water practice goes from strength to strength. Ref: 4652. Contact: Jane Glassberg.

2-3 Years' PQE

SHIPPING LITIGATION

This leading maritime firm has 45 partners in its City HQ and other offices around the globe. You needn't be from a dedicated shipping background, as the firm will consider technically able insurance or commercial litigators, but you will have first-rate academic aptitude for this specialist practice area. For more senior applicants, there is the prospect of early partnership. Ref: 6833. Contact: Gino Elias.

PRIVATE CLIENT/ RESIDENTIAL CONVEYANCING

Acting for high net worth individuals in the Private Client department of this City practice, you will be competent in a range of conveyancing matters and willing to provide assistance on other work within the group including trusts and estates. A more junior candidate with maturity and commercial sense would be considered for the role. Ref: 6475. Contact: Gino Elias.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Over the last couple of years clients are attaching more importance to environmental matters and need advice in relation to property, corporate and banking transactions. As a result, niche Environmental Units have sprung up in many of the larger firms, and this City practice is no exception. Now seeking a further assistant to join a team of three. Ref: 6586. Contact: Gino Elias.

2-5 Years' PQE

BUSINESS IMMIGRATION

It is not that often that plum immigration jobs like this come up. This City firm has one of the largest dedicated immigration departments and is in the top tier in this field. Work is primarily business/employment related immigration and includes all aspects of UK immigration and nationality issues. The client base is diverse and high profile and includes financial institutions, corporates, hotels, entrepreneurs and sports personalities. Ref: 6646. Contact: Penelope Gethers.

CORPORATE/BANKING PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

Can you imagine being able to plan your life outside the office without always having to cancel? We have several full and part-time positions for lawyers with corporate or banking backgrounds who would like to handle know-how, precedents, education, training and marketing. Would suit those who like to enjoy life inside and outside the office. Ref: 6129. Contact: Penelope Gethers.

CONSTRUCTION

This is the firm to be if you are a construction lawyer. It has vacancies for both contentious and non-contentious lawyers and offers the opportunity to do a mix. It has, without doubt, one of the strongest and most balanced construction practices in the City and its team consists of 35 lawyers - many of whom are leading lights in their field. You simply will not get better quality work. Ref: 4863. Contact: Penelope Gethers.

2-4 Years' PQE

2+ Years' PQE

0-4 Years' PQE

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

Airtours plc

GROUP COMPANY SECRETARY & HEAD OF LEGAL DEPARTMENT Manchester Substantial six figure package

Airtours is the world's largest air inclusive tour operator, consisting of mutually supportive operating divisions: UK Leisure Group (Airtours Holidays, Aspro, Tradewinds, EuroSites, Going Places, Late Escapes, Cresta, Bridge Travel Group); Scandinavian Leisure Group (Ving, Saga, Always, Tjornaborg, Spies); West European Leisure Group (SunAir, Unifreel); North American Leisure Group (Alba, Sunquest, Suntrips); Aviation Division (Airtours International, Premier and Air Belgium); Cruise and Hotels Division (Sun Cruises, Sunwing Hotels and 50% of Costa Cruises); Vacation Ownership Division, which is undertaking developments in Florida and Gran Canaria. Group turnover in 1997 was £2,174m with profits of £120m. Airtours has achieved compound growth of 41% over the past ten years.

This is a high profile role within one of the UK's most successful and rapidly growing public companies, reporting to the Group Managing Director, with overall responsibility for the company secretarial function and the group legal department.

Key responsibilities include management and organisation of Board meetings and the AGM, Stock Exchange compliance, annual returns and financial statements for group companies and subsidiaries, and the management of trade marks.

We seek a highly motivated solicitor or accountant who relishes hands-on involvement in commercial and corporate law, in the UK and abroad. You will have regular contact with directors, overseas lawyers and professional advisors to the group. You will manage high level corporate transactions, joint ventures and commercial transactions as well as head office employment issues, pensions and incentive schemes.

This is a role for an outstanding solicitor or accountant, probably aged from 35 to 45, with a track record of success in a corporate legal environment, probably with plc and Stock Exchange exposure. This individual will have strong organisational skills, a positive personality, and will also relate well in the boardroom and with fellow professionals of the highest levels.

To discuss this appointment in confidence please contact Andrew Leo ILS or Honor Lindsey who are exclusively retained. All third party approaches will be directed to Actis Recruitment.



Actis Recruitment

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Fladgate Fielder's Corporate Department is enjoying sustained growth. Turnover has doubled over the past three years and is forecast to maintain its steep rise. This is an opportunity to join a profitable top 100 law firm which encourages and rewards initiative, creativity and determination.

Fladgate Fielder is one of the leading business law practices in the West End. With 24 partners and a total staff of 150, the firm is entrepreneurial and non-bureaucratic with excellent support systems in all areas. Its client base covers the UK, Europe, North America, Israel and the Far East.

If you want to join a firm in which your voice will be heard, we are seeking an enthusiastic:

Company/Commercial Lawyer with fluent German (2-4 years' PQE)

to act as deputy to the partner heading up our well established Germanic practice. You will be a UK qualified lawyer with fluent German and will be given a wide range of commercial and corporate work in both English and German. You will have ample opportunity to use your language skills and we are keen to support ongoing training.

We also have vacancies for company/commercial lawyers, particularly with IP/T experience.

To apply please contact Julie Kimber, HR Manager, Fladgate Fielder, Heron Place, 3 George Street, London W1H 6AD. Tel: 0171 467 4730. E-Mail: jkimber@fdgate.co.uk



Opportunities within Enforcement

The Financial Services Authority (FSA) will be the new integrated regulatory authority for the UK financial services industry.

The FSA's scope will ultimately extend to banking, securities and investments, building societies, insurance, friendly societies and credit unions.

THE FSA ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

The division is responsible for two broad categories of work; one dealing with misconduct or abuse by authorised institutions and individuals, and the other dealing with firms and individuals who may be conducting deposit taking or investment business without authorisation or exemption. This is a challenging and fast moving environment which requires people of the utmost professionalism and ability.

At the heart of the work of this division is the protection of investors and depositors.

We are currently looking for people from a range of backgrounds to fill several challenging and high profile roles. Each of these roles will enable you to contribute to the development and implementation of the FSA's approach to enforcement.

INVESTIGATIONS Investigators

A number of vacancies exist for investigations officers in the FSA regulatory investigations department. The roles involve conducting investigations into the activities of firms or individuals regulated under financial services legislation and you will be responsible for investigating potential breaches of Rules and Principles. This will involve conducting interviews of potential witnesses and, in some cases, investors who have been disadvantaged; analysing documentary and electronic evidence; reporting to internal committees on the results of your investigations; and advising the committees on what action should be taken. You will also be involved in preparing disciplinary cases and you will assist with the preparation for and conduct of Disciplinary Tribunal hearings. In this regard you will work closely with FSA's litigation staff.

You must have a strong eye for detail, good project management and communication skills (both written and oral) and be tenacious and thorough. You are likely to be a chartered accountant with forensic or insolvency experience, or a solicitor or barrister with commercial litigation experience, preferably in financial services and to have two to four years post qualification experience.

STATUTORY PROSECUTORS Two posts for Lawyers

We are looking for a solicitor/barrister with at least four years p.q.e. in a good City litigation department, and a recently qualified solicitor/barrister to work in the Statutory Prosecutions Department of the Financial Services Authority (FSA).

You will work primarily on civil litigation in the Chancery Division arising from the FSA's powers under the Financial Services Act ('FS Act') and Banking Act and on disqualification of unfit individuals under the FS Act which go to the Financial Services Tribunal. You will assist on prosecutions of unauthorised investment business and unlicensed deposit taking (and in due course, possibly, insider dealing and money laundering).

Both positions will also offer the opportunity to observe the progress of the proposed Financial Services Bill and to help plan, and participate in, an in-house litigation capability for the FSA. The senior appointment requires an excellent knowledge of High Court (preferably

Chancery) procedure. Experience of prosecuting for a public body, or experience of judicial review proceedings, would be an advantage. The recently qualified lawyer must have had some good quality civil litigation experience during training. For both positions, experience of banking or financial services litigation (including disciplinary proceedings) would be desirable, but not essential.

REGULATORY LITIGATION

We are looking for solicitors or barristers with a range of post-qualification experience. You will be involved in the preparation and conduct of cases in front of the internal and external committees and tribunals, through which the FSA enforces its standards. Each position will involve close liaison with FSA's investigations staff.

You will have between two and six years post-qualification experience, you will need excellent communications skills, both oral and written, including advocacy, plus experience of litigation, ideally relating to regulatory matters or financial fraud.

ENFORCEMENT POLICY Manager

We have an opportunity for a qualified lawyer to work in a managerial role within the Enforcement Division's policy team. This team provides legal and policy support to all aspects of the division's work and, in particular, will be responsible for developing a coherent and effective set of enforcement policies for the FSA, and explaining and promoting the FSA's approach to the use of its powers both within the UK and internationally.

You will need a sound knowledge of the FSA's role, the relevant legislation and the process of legislative change, as well as experience of conducting civil, criminal or regulatory casework from investigation through to litigation. You should also have good awareness of UK and international developments, and the ability to relate those to the practicalities of enforcement work in the FSA. Strong communication skills and proven ability to lead a small and professional unit is essential.

FSA offers salaries, benefits packages and career prospects which will fully reflect your experience, skills and high profile of the role.

Please send your CV and details of your current package, quoting Ref: ENF/CT, to Gill Payne, HR Division, FSA, 25 North Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London E14 5HS. Closing date: 5 June 1998.

Southwark Legal Services

2 Legal Officers - Social Services

Locum posts to cover maternity leave
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Ref: 1897

We provide an in-house service to the Council's Social Services Department. These posts provide an exciting opportunity to apply your legal skills and experience in a demanding environment. You will need knowledge and experience of Child Care Law and the ability to deliver legal skills effectively through a team approach.

You will undertake the whole range of social services work but with a strong emphasis on child care. You will also undertake advocacy under the Children Act 1989.

You will be qualified as a Solicitor or Barrister with a minimum of 2 years' post entry qualification.

These posts will be available in July and August 1998 for an initial period of six months each. One post could be a job-share if required.

For an application form and further details please telephone 0171 525 7547 or 0171 525 7569.

Closing date for the receipt of completed application forms: Friday 5th June 1998.

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APPOINTMENTS TO THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT JUDGE

The Lord Chancellor invites applications from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the office of District Judge. Successful applicants will be recommended to the Lord Chancellor for appointment as District Judge to fill a significant number of vacancies arising on all circuits between 1 April 1999 and 31 March 2000.

Applicants must have held a right of audience in any class of proceedings in the Supreme Court or in all proceedings in the county courts or Magistrates' Courts for a period of seven years. They should normally be aged between 40 and 60 on 1 April 1999 and have served in the office of Deputy District Judge (not necessarily on the circuit to which they seek assignment as a District Judge) for a period of 2 years, or completed 40 or more sittings, prior to that date.

The Lord Chancellor will appoint the candidates who appear to him to be best qualified regardless of ethnic origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation, religion or (subject to the physical requirements of the office) disability.

An application form, together with a job description and note of the criteria for appointment, information about the expected number and location of vacancies and further information for applicants, is available by telephoning 0171 210 1464 (an answering machine will operate outside normal office hours) or by writing to:

JAD2 (Applications Unit)
Lord Chancellor's Department
Selborne House
54/60 Victoria Street
LONDON SW1E 6QW

Completed application forms must be returned by noon on Friday 19 June 1998.



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HOUSE

IT LAWYER

London
European leader in IT services and management consulting which posted \$3bn revenue last year requires a lawyer to provide commercially orientated legal advice to senior management. You will be 2-5 years qualified, gained preferably within a similar domain and have expertise in dealing with service contracts including outsourcing, systems integration and consultancy. Ref: 6683. Contact: Andrew Poole.

PARENTS LAWYERS/ AVIATION LAWYER

London/Stansted
If you have good experience in patent law (application or exploitation) and are 0-8+ years' PQE. I want to hear from you. I have several exciting positions that will be of interest. I also have a rare opportunity to move in-house in the aviation sector for a lawyer with 2-4 years' PQE gained at a top City law firm. Ref: 6288/6230. Contact: Andrew Poole.

CONVEYANCING/SOLE LAWYER

Woking
Medium sized, established building company with a turnover of £13m seeks a versatile solicitor/legal executive with experience of commercial conveyancing and the ability to handle a wide variety of general legal/quest-legal work. The ideal candidate will be 2-4 years' qualified and will be offered the position of Company Secretary and in due course, a directorship. Ref: 6616. Contact: Andrew Poole.

TELECOMS/REGULATORY AFFAIRS

North London
(5 Years+ PQE)
Dynamic telecoms company consolidating their recent strong growth requires REGULATORY AFFAIRS MANAGERS to deliver strategic analysis of regulatory issues vital to the company's continued success. The work is both varied and stimulating. Knowledge of government telecoms policies and a technical knowledge of the telecoms environment are essential. Ref: 6176. Contact: Richard Green.

BROADCASTING

London
(2 to 5 Years PQE)
Leading broadcaster seeks a lawyer with drama experience (Big Budget TV world) to join their professional and dynamic "in-house" legal team. The position will include co-production agreements and financing. The successful candidate will be confident, self-reliant with strong communication skills. This role offers stimulating and interesting work. Ref: 6623. Contact: Richard Green.

PROPERTY LAWYER

Surry
Rapidly expanding communications company require a 4 to 7 year Qualified Lawyer to handle all aspects of the Company's property work. The position is a "stand alone" one and therefore requires a self-starter with plenty of confidence and excellent interpersonal skills. Ref: 6688. Contact: Richard Green.

CORPORATE FINANCE

City
An unrivalled opportunity for a 4-5 year qualified lawyer to provide front-line support to the Corporate Finance department at this renowned firm of stockbrokers. This role demands a thorough working knowledge of the Yellow and Blue books gained in a similar environment or at a City law firm and a desire to work hand-in-hand with the deal makers. Ref: 6643. Contact: Paul Rasmussen.

BANKING

City
If you are a junior banking lawyer who finds the law firm environment rather restrictive why not move onto the Trading Floor at a major US investment bank? Working as part of an extremely profitable trading team you will provide documentation support and on-the-spot legal advice to your colleagues who are dynamic, successful and fun. c. 1 year PQE. Ref: 6515. Contact: Paul Rasmussen.

STRUCTURED FINANCE (TAX LAWYER)

City/Docklands
Are there any personable and commercially-minded corporate tax lawyers (or ACA/ATIs) out there? If you have a sound corporate tax background including some involvement in devising, marketing and implementing novel structured finance products for multinational corporations there are loads of interesting openings at Investment Banks, Boutique operations and Accountancy firms. 1-8 years' PQE. Contact: Paul Rasmussen.

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TOKYO

Senior assistant/partner \$Substantial

Our client is a highly regarded international law firm with offices in major business centres around the world, including Tokyo, Singapore and Jakarta.

This is a high profile role which will involve handling a broad range of international finance issues involving Japanese financing, industrial and trading entities.

Applications are invited from US, UK or Australian lawyers at least 7 years qualified (or at partner level) who are able to both work autonomously and as part of a small team.

In return, the practice offers a highly competitive salary package, an excellent quality of work and a truly international work environment.

Contact Conor Greene on 00852 2584 6274. or write to him at Taylor Root, 8th Floor, Bank of America Tower, 12 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong.



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WORLD LEADING COMPANY

15+ YEARS' PQE

OUTSTANDING + FULL BENEFITS

Our client, an energy major, is the largest business unit of a highly successful multinational FTSE 100 company.

The overriding objective of the role will be to provide professional legal advice to the company and the business units, working closely with the Managing Director to develop the quality and the commercial nature of the advice being given.

developing, motivating and recruiting to the highest standards. Change management, policy making and strategic management skills will be essential in order to evolve the position.

You will be a senior lawyer (possibly in a deputy head of legal or number two position currently), seeking to utilise your already extensive legal and commercial skills and experience in a challenging new role.

company's direction during a period of change will be particularly useful, as would exposure to a highly regulated industry.

To discuss this position in the utmost confidence, please contact Geraldine Hetherington or Lindsey Newman at In-House Legal on 0171 405 0151.



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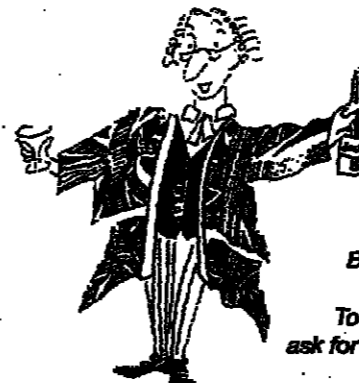
Legal Advisor

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Naveen Tuli and Rachael North are handling this assignment on behalf of Lucent Technologies on an exclusive basis. For further information, they can be contacted in complete confidence.



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RACING: DERBY TRIAL COMPETES WITH FREE FOOD AT GOODWOOD

Sensory to provide winning recipe for choice menu

By RICHARD EVANS RACING CORRESPONDENT

A CHOICE menu awaits racegoers at Goodwood today with the last of the recognised Derby trials competing with free food for all.



Since it was first run in 1970, only one winner - Troy in 1979 - has followed up at Epsom. Half of today's six runners hold Derby entries, the most interesting of which is Mutamam, trained by Alec Stewart.

The Darshaan colt is out of a half-sister to Mito, the dual Eclipse Stakes winner trained by Stewart, and he justified a tall home reputation last year when winning his first two starts before finishing an excellent third to Saratoga Springs in the Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster.



Little Indian, right, winner of the Solario Stakes, runs in today's Predominate Stakes

exercise with a bruised heel." he said. "We have gradually built him up and he is in good form. The race will tell us what class of racehorse he is. He will be better for the race and, while I hope he wins, I will be satisfied, given the missed five days with a bold showing."

The Selkirk colt, who split La-Faah and Victory Note in the Morris Hill Stakes on his final start last year, reappeared at Newmarket 18 days ago, when he battled on gamely behind Dr Frog when looking in need of the run.

Apache Red looks worth an interest in the Chichester Festival Theatre Handicap (2.40), the first of three races screened on BBC1. He ran particularly well from a poor draw behind stablemate Hill Magic over six furlongs at Lingfield. The Indian Ridge colt won over a mile as a two-year-old so today's longer trip should suit and he has a plum draw.

Second Empire warms up for Irish Guineas

By CHRIS McGRATH

THE Epsom classic jigsaw is by no means fitted yet with the news filtering through from Ballydoyle yesterday that Second Empire may have the chance to re-establish his place at the top of the Vodaphone Derby betting by running in the Hibernia Irish 2,000 Guineas at the Curragh on Saturday.

Last season's Grand Critérium winner had been on the easy list with a muscle injury but, after working up to 10,000 racegoers a flexible panorama, whether over paddock and winner's enclosure, from rear balconies; the course, from restaurant tables and terracing or video walls, in betting halls and bars.

John Gosden, the trainer, was produced to express the local community's relish to a London press conference yesterday. He said: "The present starting is a pitiful sight, unchanged since the days of Fred Archer. People feel as though they are standing on a railway platform. This is not some grandiose project but a necessity, and there is great excitement in Newmarket. It can give the Rowley Mile real soul."

Empire, King Of Kings, Saratoga Springs, Bianco and Chateau Royal will stand their ground until a final decision is taken later in the week. Moving on to another classic scene, while few would dispute Newmarket's status as Headquarters, the dreary aspect of its Rowley Mile means that some of the racing circuit's less sentimental professionals prefer to know the place as Hind-quarters.

five-tier structure will begin in November, to finish in time for the 2000 Craven meeting. In the interim, next year's programme will be transferred to the adjacent July Course. The Millennium Stand has been designed by Goddard Wybor, responsible for the Knavesmire Stand at York. The intention is to afford up to 10,000 racegoers a flexible panorama, whether over paddock and winner's enclosure, from rear balconies; the course, from restaurant tables and terracing or video walls, in betting halls and bars.

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The July Course is nowadays divided into two tracks, and Nick Lees, director of racing, is confident that it can absorb the additional burden next year. Inevitably, however, its intimate charms may not endure the bleaker days of spring and autumn wholly undiminished.

There will, moreover, be alterations to some race distances, with nine-furlong contests such as the Earl of Sefton Stakes using the maximum straight of 8 1/2 furlongs. The Tote Cambridgeshire, by contrast, will be extended to ten furlongs to preserve the greater safety limit - though the blood runs cold at the idea of 36 horses jostling for position, with a bend lurking after little more than 300 yards.

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

Table with columns for race names, horses, and odds. Includes races like Cape Verde, Second Empire, Green Dance, Saratoga Springs, etc.

ALTHOUGH the final Derby trial, the Tote Predominate Stakes, is run at Goodwood today, it is unlikely to produce a credible Epsom contender. The main concern for ante-post punters at this stage is the participation of Cape Verde, King Of Kings and Second Empire, all of whom hold high rank in the betting.

The impressive 3,000 Guineas winner, Cape Verde, will be competing against her own sex in the Oaks, Adam O'Brien's 2,000 Guineas winner, King Of Kings, has stamina doubts and could wait for Royal Ascot, while his stablemate, Second Empire, is a possible runner in Sunday's Irish 2,000 Guineas, but has yet to prove himself after a setback earlier in the year.

Saratoga Springs, yet another O'Brien contender, confirms his toughness when winning the Darne Stakes at York and cannot be ruled out, while the runner-up there, City Honour, was a little unlicked in running and is likely to improve for the longer trip in the Derby.

Small leap to prominence when runner-up to Xaar at Newmarket in April, but that form does not look so good now, and the less-than-impressive career in Sunday's Irish 2,000 Guineas, but has yet to prove himself after a setback earlier in the year.

Advertisement for 'NEW LAW JOURNAL' featuring a horse and rider image and text about legal services.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Opponent: Jubbing (5th), 12.00. ... Bath (3.00) ... 2.25 GRASSY HELEN (2.55) ... 3.25 OUI SIGHT (3.55) ... 4.25 FOREST ENDING (4.55) ... 5.55 H & P FREIGHTWAYS HANDICAP (5.55) ... 6.55 NATIONAL RIDING WEEK MAIDEN STAKES (6.55) ... 7.55 RETIRED HANDICAPERS MAIDEN STAKES (7.55) ... 8.55 DAVID SWANNELL MEMORIAL RATED HANDICAP (8.55) ... 9.55 BLINKERED FIRST TIME (9.55) ... 10.55 DUNLOP WAITS (10.55) ... 11.55 GET IT FREE! 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Goalkeepers make difference in final analysis

MARC ASPLAND

The story

It's the time of the season for looking back, and doing those "They think it's all over" gags. Indeed, I don't see your picture there among all the winners, though. No, and I don't think you really expected to. But I think I've learnt a lot, and I'll be raring to go next season. Well, it's very gratifying to hear you give me credit for all my sage advice. Oh, I didn't mean it like that. I was trying to say that I'd learnt a lot from my mistakes — you know, the old trial and error method. Eh? But what about my knowledge of the game, my reading of players' form... Yes, and what about your claim that the watertight Leeds United defence should be the basis of my team? All the evidence pointed to Nigel Martyn being the soundest goalkeeper for your money. But I spotted Gilles Rousset, of Heart of Midlothian, as a good bet in September. And in October, I suggested buying Chris Sutton. He would have been worth 106 points. Granted. But my top players like Muzzy Izzet and Eyal Berkovic were entirely my own discovery. You might find that Harry Redknapp and Martin O'Neill disagree with you there. And I still think you picked both of them as Scrabble scores, not footballers. I picked them as consistent points-scorers, which is what they proved themselves to be. When you have players like them, goalkeeping midfield players in teams that win more than they lose, you've struck gold. They cut down on your need to make transfers, so you have enough left when you really need to bring someone in. Hmm. You have learned a lot. It sounds as if you'll be ready to take over from me next season. Doing what? Giving people useless advice? I think we've already established that I've given you some top tips over the months. "There are no easy games in this league." That was one of yours, I seem to remember. Well, if you want to start quoting chapter and verse, how about this from January 13: "Overmars looked good, scoring goals from midfield." Touched a nerve, have I? Okay, I admit it — I couldn't have done it without you. Done what, exactly? You finished in 117.65th place. I rest my case.

Seaman and Schmeichel share the honours as Negri's early-season prowess keeps him well ahead of the other high-scoring strikers

With all matches completed, the Interactive Team Football season has now drawn to an end. The final player lists are printed on the facing page, and there have been small but significant changes since last week. David Seaman's clean sheet against Newcastle United in the FA Cup Final enabled him to draw level with Peter Schmeichel as overall top points-scorer in ITF, a fitting conclusion to a season in which the Arsenal and England goalkeeper has collected winner's medals in the top two domestic competitions; many will be hoping that he collects one more significant award before the summer is out. It is also revealing that goalkeepers have outscored goal-hungry forwards.



In Scotland, it was a different story; Marco Negri, despite a low-key ending to the season (as non-playing substitute in Rangers' Ternents Scottish Cup final defeat by Heart of Midlothian), finished comfortably ahead of the field, as might have been expected. The winners of the ITF prizes were announced yesterday at the Sports Cafe in London (see facing page). The main innovation of the ITF season, the FA Cup League, has been highly successful,

and the destination of the £10,000 prize was in the balance until the final whistles on Saturday. With the race at the top of other leagues also being close, it is fair to say that points earned in FA and Ternents Scottish Cup ties were significant in deciding more than one title.

The ITF checkline (0891 884 643) and faxback line (0991 111 333) will remain open until the end of May.



Marc Overmars celebrates his goal at Wembley... and a massive haul of 130 points in ITF for the season

LEAGUE UPDATES

ITF LEAGUE
£20,000 top prize
£3,000 monthly prize

PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE
Professionals choose their fantasy team

STUDENTS' LEAGUE
Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag

YOUTH LEAGUE
Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag

WOMEN'S LEAGUE
Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

1	C Purdy	Kate's Cosmos	1,189
2	S Whitfield	Small Busters	1,181
3	A Hambrow	The Beechlers 1	1,154
4	J Gardner	15 Chumbawumbas	1,142
5	A Finch	Annette's Angels	1,138
6	C Purdy	Kate's Upstarts	1,128
7	C Cheahire	Cheshire's Cats	1,109
8	A Dack	Fantasy Wolves 11	1,104
9	B Fletcher	Ab Fab	1,101
10	M Portwood	Women Can Play 2	1,098
11	S Alport	Farmoor Pirates	1,093
12	C Rabe-Guimeras	Calistonia Jiles	1,081
13	L Emery	Buggie's Boys	1,067
14	T Saul	No Sip Ups	1,060
15	J Woolner	Jane's FC One	1,058
16	H Oram	Prig's Eleven	1,057
17	J Pepper	Pepper Feds	1,054
18	M Nicol	Pitchhead	1,037
19	S Brooks	Sandra's Specials	1,030
20	P Johnston	XII Superstars	1,029

STUDENTS' LEAGUE

1	N Wheatley	HOG is A Sad Wester	1,280
2	N Wheatley	Whitridge is II	1,204
3	T Gardner	15 Chumbawumbas	1,174
4	J Gardner	15 Chumbawumbas	1,142
5	E Carmichael	Jodi Masters	1,106
6	M Stacie	Fantasia One	1,086
7	S Shipley	Set Against	1,046
8	W Razzak	Fantasia	1,028
9	G Wilson	Dog Soldiers	1,021
10	N Coleman	Inseparably	978
11	F Ferguson	Saucy Sue Barker	967
12	C Clark	Clark United	948
13	J Widdell	Father Shaboooboo	944
14	T Shearer	Teach Me Tiger	943
15	G Skivington	Dynamo Six	940
16	M Baker	Total Carnage	937
17	D Hargraves	The Lovelands	936
18	C Marinczak	Jensen's XI	929
19	Z Tezar	Ziggy Greenes XI	928
20	J Frost	Variety Sports Inter	928

YOUTH LEAGUE

1	M Somapala	Horley Flames	1,211
2	R Wiche	Robbed	1,147
3	J Gardner	15 Chumbawumbas	1,142
4	M McPhillips	Ballygallrovers	1,137
5	D Lewis	Lewis Boys 11	1,125
6	O Ledgard	Oliver's Army	1,101
7	C Oyston	The Offspring FC	1,091
8	M Roberts	Kyrtania Three	1,082
9	G Richards	G Force 2	1,057
10	G Richards	G Force 3	998
11	D Griffiths	Gwacemolu	979
12	J Laurence	Smooth United	978
13	J Martin	Comanchepm 1	960
14	N Brotherton	Total Commitment	957
15	E Swires	Edith's Entertainment	954
16	T Quatley	Fruitas	953
17	J Brady	Jamie's Jammers	944
18	K Tricall	Flash XI	943
19	C Marinczak	Jensen's XI	929
20	B McMullan	No Opposition	928

ITF LEAGUE

1	A Luchhurst	Tobs	1,258
2	M Jones	JBJ	1,248
3	A Newstead	Nectar	1,229
4	A Luchhurst	Caroline B	1,224
5	P Turner	Te T Cup	1,218
6	P Turner	Turner's Earnst 5	1,215
7	M Jones	JBJ	1,214
8	J Dwyer	Nudge Nudge Wink Wink	1,211
9	G Dolan	Genials	1,209
9=	A Luchhurst	Tobits	1,209
11	D Walton	Don 2	1,207
12	A Luchhurst	Edkie Woo	1,204
12=	J Feather	Erid 4	1,204
13	P Turner	Turner's Earnst 5	1,204
15	S Laag	Gocon 4	1,202
16	D Burch	ABZ	1,202
17	P Bee	Bumble Two	1,202
17=	P Bowen	Bees XI	1,202
19	P Turner	Turner's Earnst 1	1,200
20	N Wheatley	HOG is A Sad Wester	1,200
21	C Burn	Burr's Spurs 4	1,200
21	D Walton	Nurphy Nuts	1,200
22	H Wheeler	Quito Fan	1,200
24	P Turner	Turner's Earnst 2	1,200
25	M A Kennedy	Too Fair	1,200
26	Beebe	Novota Spillers	1,200
27	Beebe	Game of Two Prints	1,200
28	M Luchhurst	Huntley's Rangers	1,200
29	Brown	Random Reserve	1,200
30	A Luchhurst	Canine A	1,200
31	A Luchhurst	Wool	1,200
31=	M A Kennedy	Inveness Undecided	1,200
32	P Turner	Turner's Earnst 4	1,200
34	D Brown	Random Selection	1,200
34=	J Tan	Red Scousers	1,200
36	P Turner	Turner's Earnst 8	1,200
36=	M Barnett	Can't Lose 8 Terns	1,200
38	A Bates	Wetherby Racing 7	1,200
39	J Murray	Beauwithers 5	1,200
40	T Gammage	Drowned Goldfish	1,200
41	G Dabnor	St Remy Strikers	1,200
42	A Staszkiwicz	JWS Barsteward	1,200
43	C Forde	AC Dot UK	1,200
43=	A Ballou	Goody FC	1,200
46	P Turner	Turner's Earnst 1	1,200
46	G Dabnor	St Remy Strikers	1,200
47	M Madden	Poshies never change	1,200
48	V Cox	Alan Cow Danger Hansen	1,200
48	G Dabnor	St Remy Strikers	1,200
50	A Staszkiwicz	Petunia	1,200
51	G Harrison	Brute Force	1,200
51	G Harrison	Whitridge is II	1,200
52	A Robson	Club 19-30	1,200
54	S Birchfield	Buglugs 1	1,200
54=	A Staszkiwicz	Ellen Fiddle	1,200
54=	M Horan	St Patrick's Charlotters	1,200
57	I Ralph	Marco Champions	1,200
57=	B Sane	Teddy 1	1,200
57=	P Turner	Turner's Earnst 3	1,200
60	R Loolyer	Rache's	1,199
61	P Turner	Turner's Earnst 2	1,199
61=	M Fox	Foxy	1,199
63	A Staszkiwicz	Frank Gulcher	1,199
63=	S Malkin	Spud 2	1,199
63=	M Huddleston	Pulp Faction III	1,199
63=	A Staszkiwicz	Joe Jones	1,199
67	A Staszkiwicz	Gravy Breath	1,188
68	P Turner	Turner's Earnst 10	1,188
69	A Staszkiwicz	Burr's Spurs	1,188
70	J Smith	All For Too Much	1,188
70=	C Barnett	Rose's Raiders	1,188
70=	L Clark	AC Ltd	1,188
70=	D Wilshar	Hatters	1,188
70=	D Patel	DP2	1,188
70=	D Patel	DP4	1,188
76	B O'Hara	The Warriors (Come out to play)	1,181
76=	D Goodwin	Diesel's Critch	1,181
76=	P Turner	Turner's Earnst 8	1,181
78	P Turner	Turner's Earnst 9	1,180
82	J Swain	Ladies And Petunias	1,179
82=	E J Kirby	Totted 2	1,179
82=	R Lowe	Hamchurch Hotshots again	1,179
83	R Koonen	RSS	1,179
84	E J Kirby	Totted Three	1,176
85	A Grady	Wormo	1,175
85	T Gardner	O Chumbawumbas	1,174
87	J Swain	no name	1,174
87=	T O'Keefe	Wetherby Warriors 1	1,172
87=	Blaumedia Pursuivant	Sepinila Country	1,172
90	D Lawrence	Aquatic Angles	1,171
90=	D Edbrooke Stainer	Ca	1,171
92	C Purdy	Kate's Cosmos	1,168
92=	A Staszkiwicz	Mon's Pate	1,168
94	D Goodwin	Canavan of Love	1,167
95	A Sisti	Sparks, Monkey	1,167
95=	A Staszkiwicz	Swimming	1,167
95=	D Patel	DP3	1,167
98	Mr Pink	Dog Eat Dog Athletic	1,168
98=	A Staszkiwicz	Kometh Keepers	1,168
98=	P Turner	Turner's Earnst 4	1,168

PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE

1	Simon Grayson	Aston Villa	723
2	Paul Stanger	Derby County/Wolves	716
3	Paul Stanger	Liverpool	676
4	Steve Potts	West Ham United	676
5	Rob Savage	Lancaster City	666
6	Alvin Hildland	Leeds United	666
7	David Seaman	Arsenal	661
8	Phil Babb	Liverpool	654
9	Jonny Hunt	Derby County	649
10	Teddy Sheringham	Manchester United	641
11	Bjorn Tore Kvernem	Liverpool	620
12	Dave Watson	Everton	618
13	John Selkirk	Covecity City	613
14	Chris Powell	Derby County	610
15	David Batty	Newcastle United	607
16	Kyle Litchbourne	Covecity City	600
17	Robert Lee	Newcastle United	598
18	Nicky Butt	Manchester United	598
19	Richard Johnson	Leeds United	596
20	David Tuttle	Crystal Palace	596
21	Kevin Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	593
22	David Backlund	Wimbledon	593
23	Perumb Kesaram	Lancaster City	593
24	Tim Brasher	West Ham United	593
25	Richard Shaw	Covecity City	594
26	Cain Heady	Blackburn Rovers	577
27	Paul Williams	Covecity City	577
28	Robbie Fowler	Liverpool	576
29	Nigel Martyn	Leeds United	572
30	Kenny Black	Lancaster City	572
31	Kenny Cunningham	Wimbledon	564
32	David Backlund	Manchester United	563
33	Robin van der Laan	Derby County	562
34	Andy Townsend	Aston Villa/Middlesbrough	557
35	Nicky Eaden	Barnsley	556
36	Ian Doolan	Arsenal	556
37	Greame Le Stae	Chelsea	555
38	Ian Pearce	West Ham United	554
39	John Hendrie	Barnsley	554
40	Frank Leacock	Barnsley	551
41	Lars Bohinen	Blackburn Rovers	550
42	Andrew Liddell	Barnsley	550
43	St Remy Strikers	St Remy Strikers	549
44	Dean Holdsworth	Wimbledon/Bolton	537
45	Kevin Muscat	Crystal Palace	527
46	Nigel Wright	Liverpool	518
47	Derek Fisher	Crystal Palace	514
48	Ugo Ehiogu	Aston Villa	514
49	Steve Clarke	Chelsea	510
50	Steve Lomas	West Ham United	509
51	Jason Eull	Wimbledon	505
52	David Whelan	Leeds United	500
53	Gary McRobert	West Ham United	496
54	Gary McRobert	Tottenham Hotspur	496
55	Johnnie Egan	Tottenham Hotspur	496
56	Robert Cross	Barnsley	496
57	Johnnie Egan	Tottenham Hotspur	496
58	Coin Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	492
59	Spencer Prior	Chelsea	476
60	Kevin Hitchcock	Chelsea	476
61	Stewart Castledine	Wimbledon	468
62	Andy Roberts	Crystal Palace	468
63	Alan Wright	Crystal Palace	468
64	John Harrison	Aston Villa	448
65	Marc Overmars	West Ham United	448
66	Denny Wiltonson	Everton	443
67	Andy Strain	Tottenham Hotspur	437
68	Marc Overmars	Crystal Palace	437
69	Lee Cornley	Derby County	422
70	Dennis Wise	Chelsea	408
71	Lee Sharpe	Leeds United	396
72	St Remy Strikers	Chelsea/Zola	391
73	Gary Neville	Manchester United	375
74	Alan Shearer	Newcastle United	362
75	Nick Whitlow	Newcastle United	324
76	Nick Whitlow	Bolton Wanderers	294

FA CUP LEAGUE

1	M Jones	JBI	332
2=	S Malkin	Spud for the Cup	328
3	M Jones	JBI	328
4	P Turner	Te B Cup	326
5	J Pregon	FA Cup	318
6	P Turner	Te W Cup	318
7	G Dolan	Claret Sky	301
8	P Turner	Te D Cup	300
9	A Staszkiwicz	RAS Murtaz	299
10	S Malkin	Spud	292
11	A Staszkiwicz	March Instap	290
12	P Turner	Te F Cup	288
13=	A Staszkiwicz	Jamie's Duties	288
13=	A Staszkiwicz	LRSQGS Longname	288
15	B T Gimp	NOV Goodlams	286
16	A Staszkiwicz	The Kretschmers	285
17	H & S Management	Cup's In The Bag	284
18=	A Staszkiwicz	Mandy Storgale	283
18=	J Brown	Nobby	283
18=	J Brown	Nobby	283

INTERNET LEAGUE

1	J Dwyer	Nudge Nudge Wink Wink	1,311
2	P Bowen	Bees XI	1,293
3	H Wheeler	Quito Fan	1,274
4	M A Kennedy	Too Fair	1,270
5	Beebe	Novota Spillers	1,269
6	C Forde	Game of Two Prints	1,268
7	M A Kennedy	Inveness Undecided	1,246
8	J Tan	Red Scousers	1,246
9	A Bates	Wetherby Racing 7	1,240
10	G Dabnor	St Remy Strikers	1,230
11	A Staszkiwicz	JWS Barsteward	1,229
12	A Ballou	Goody FC	1,228
12=	C Forde	AC Dot UK	1,228
14	G Dabnor	St Remy Strikers	1,216
15	M Madden	Poshies never change	1,216
16	G Dabnor	St Remy Strikers	1,213
17	A Staszkiwicz	Petunia	1,210
18	A Robson	Club 19-30	1,204
19=	M Horan		

Accountant completes calculated success

Former ITF League champion misses out on repeat performance after late surge by impressive winner

After an impressive surge in the second half of the season, Andrew Luckhurst, of Ashford in Kent, won the ITF League for 1998. His team, Tobs, scored 1,388 points and earned him a cheque for £50,000. Mr Luckhurst, an accountant, modestly ascribed his success in the end to luck. "So much is down to chance — if players get injured, and don't play full games, you can lose a lot of points."

Luck may have played his part but his closest rival, Mike Jones, could only admire the way Mr Luckhurst moved ahead of him to win by 12 points. "It was looking pretty good for me at one point in the season, but there was nothing I could do about the way Andy played recently," said Mr Jones, at the awards ceremony at the Sports Café in Central London. He himself won the league two years ago.

Mr Luckhurst had never tasted success before this year. He plays bridge to a good standard and chess, too, but playing at a high level in these means travelling away for weekends, as well as paying fees. "The joy of ITF is that you can put in the time whenever you want," he said. "It's a bit of fun — you can look at it in your lunch hour, or on the train, or call up Teletext at any time to



check information." He and his partner, who has two sons, will be heading off to Disneyland Paris to celebrate.

Yet Mr Jones, a mathematics teacher from Sheffield, was not disappointed. Not only did he take the second prize of £10,000, but was also involved in a tense battle for the first ITF FA Cup league title. Last week his team, JBI, was tied in first place with Susan Makin's Spud for the Cup, both with 320 points... and only Cup Final day to go. Marc Overmars did more than anyone to clinch the title for him by a mere three points.

The third prize in the ITF league went to Abraham Neviatzki, a retired civil engineer from North London and

best chess player, who impressed both his rivals by managing to take third with his only team. They had both entered at least six.

The Internet prize of £1,000 was won by Jeremy Dwyer, of York, who writes computer programs for the National Health Service. Although a Leeds United fan, he claims that an understanding of the rules of ITF, rather than a deep knowledge of football was the important factor in his success.

Catherine Purdy, a receptionist from Lee-on-Solent in Hampshire, won a close race for the women's league title. "I'm not a fantastic football fan but I was so sick of my husband Allan spending so much time on it that I decided to have a go. It was pure luck. At Christmas I was No 1 (me and the Spice Girls) and as the season went on everyone at work, and at our office in Pennsylvania, was rooting for me."

The runaway winner of the student league was Nick Wheatley, studying geography at University College London. Using transfers to best advantage was his main ploy, especially during busy periods. Just moving Neil Sullivan, of Wimbledon, into his team at Easter made a huge difference.



Andrew Luckhurst, second left, with Kevin Davies, Sky presenter Anna Walker and PFA executive Garry Nelson



Five of the best: league winners Mike Jones, Jeremy Dwyer, Catherine Purdy, Nick Wheatley and Mark Somapala pictured at the Sports Café

TOP TIP

MARK SOMAPALA, whose team, the Horley Flames, won the ITF Youth League, is in no doubt about his tip to any aspiring entrants next season: look carefully at your mid-field. "When England had an international game, I transferred in Scottish players. Andy Smith, of Dunfermline, scored a lot for me and Robbie Winters, of Dundee United." Mark is studying for A Levels at Reigate College but does his ITF homework on Friday nights and Saturday mornings with the papers and Teletext. Now he will be travelling to France to see England in the World Cup.

FINAL INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL PLAYER LISTINGS 1997-98

CENTRAL DEFENDERS									
Code	Name	Team	S	FA	FA	FA	FA	FA	Tot
30101	B O'Neill	Aberdeen	2.00	0	-1	0	0	2	
30201	A Adams	Arsenal	3.00	5	13	5	62		
30202	M Keenan	Arsenal	3.00	5	13	5	62		
30203	G Grimandi	Arsenal	2.00	0	14	0	44		
30204	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	8	0	28		
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.00	0	4	0	38		
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00	0	7	0	39		
30401	A de Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00	0	4	0	16		
30402	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50	0	2	0	11		
30403	M Appley	Barnsley	0.50	0	1	0	11		
30502	C Henry	Blackburn	3.00	0	4	0	37		
30504	S Henchoz	Blackburn	3.00	0	3	0	36		
30505	T Pedersen	Blackburn	2.00	0	0	0	2		
30601	G Taggart	Bolton	1.00	0	0	0	5		
30602	G Basson	Bolton	1.00	0	0	0	17		
30603	C Fairclough	Bolton	1.00	0	0	0	14		
30604	M Fish	Bolton	1.50	0	0	0	24		
30701	E Annan	Celtic	1.50	0	0	0	31		
30702	M MacKay	Celtic	3.00	0	0	0	3		
30703	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00	0	6	0	77		
30704	M Rieper	Celtic	3.00	0	5	0	71		
30801	F Labouff	Chelsea	3.00	0	-5	0	54		
30802	M Duberry	Chelsea	3.00	0	-4	0	27		
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50	0	-4	0	3		
30804	B Lamboude	Chelsea	2.50	0	0	0	-3		
30901	L Dales	Coventry City	1.50	0	0	0	0		
30902	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	8	0	36		
30903	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	0	0	0	-13		
31002	A Lingham	C Palace	0.75	0	10	0	-18		
31003	D Tuttle	C Palace	0.75	0	0	0	-2		
31004	H Hreidarsson	C Palace	1.00	0	13	0	-5		
31101	I Stimac	Derby County	2.50	0	4	0	30		
31102	J Laurson	Derby County	1.50	0	-1	0	25		
31201	S Pressley	Dundee Utd	2.00	0	0	0	19		
31202	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50	0	-1	0	19		
31203	S Bilic	Everton	1.50	0	0	0	-16		
31402	D Watson	Everton	1.50	0	0	0	8		
31404	C Tier	Everton	1.50	0	0	0	25		
31501	D Weir	Hearts	3.00	1	17	1	50		
31601	J Hughes	Hibernian	2.00	0	0	0	-8		
31801	D Wetherall	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	10	0	49		
31802	G Halle	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	5	0	33		
31803	R Molenaar	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	14	0	36		
31804	L Radde	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	1	0	33		
31901	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.00	0	3	0	79		
31902	P Keenark	Leicester City	2.00	0	3	0	60		
31903	S Walsh	Leicester City	2.00	0	-2	0	40		
31904	S Prior	Leicester City	2.00	0	5	0	23		
32001	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	0	0	0	5		
32002	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00	0	-2	0	31		
32003	B T Kvame	Liverpool	3.00	0	-1	0	34		
32004	P Babb	Liverpool	3.00	0	0	0	1		
32005	H Berg	Man Utd	3.50	0	-3	0	10		
32101	D May	Man Utd	3.50	0	-4	0	59		
32102	G Pallister	Man Utd	3.50	0	0	0	3		
32103	R Johnsen	Man Utd	3.50	0	0	0	3		
32201	P Albert	Newcastle	2.00	0	7	0	25		
32202	D Peacock	Newcastle	2.00	0	4	0	11		
32203	S Howey	Newcastle	2.00	-2	4	-2	22		
32204	A Pistone	Newcastle	2.50	-1	7	-1	25		
32401	S Porcini	Rangers	3.00	-1	1	0	44		
32402	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.00	-1	7	-1	55		
32403	L Amoroso	Rangers	3.00	-2	1	-2	0		
32404	R Gough	Rangers	3.00	-1	7	-1	31		
32501	D Walker	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	3	0	12		
32502	J Newarome	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	3	0	14		
32503	P Atherton	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	3	0	23		
32701	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00	0	0	0	7		
32702	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.50	0	0	0	19		
32704	K Montoku	Southampton	1.50	0	-1	0	19		
32801	S McCuskey	St Johnstone	0.50	0	0	0	8		
32802	J Campbell	Tottenham	2.00	0	0	0	20		
32803	J Scalls	Tottenham	1.50	0	0	0	17		
32804	C Calderwood	Tottenham	1.50	0	4	0	27		
32901	R Ferdinand	West Ham	2.50	0	1	0	17		
32902	R Hall	West Ham	2.50	0	0	0	21		
31403	D Unsworth	West Ham	2.00	0	0	0	15		
32903	S Potts	West Ham	2.00	0	0	0	15		
32904	J Pascoe	West Ham	2.00	0	5	0	22		
31001	A Roberts	Wimbledon	2.00	0	13	0	36		
33001	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.00	0	8	0	43		
33002	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.00	0	3	0	43		

FOOTBALL

Fitness levels of immediate concern to Hoddle squad

By Matt Dickinson

PLAYERS, coaches and, of course, a faith healer or two gathered in Buckinghamshire last night to begin England's countdown to the World Cup. The clock has begun ticking for Glenn Hoddle and his squad and, of the 28 days that remain until the first game against Tunisia on June 15, all but a few will now be spent together until their elimination. That should they reach the final, will not be until July 12.

Hoddle's first objective, apart from attempting to keep the conversation away from smoking, faith healing and religion, will be to assess the fitness of the various walking wounded. The biggest doubt surrounds Jamie Redknapp, the Liverpool midfielder, who has not played for a month after tweaking the medial ligament in his knee. The 24-year-old is confident that he will pass a fitness test.

Others, notably Paul Gascoigne, Darren Anderson, Ian Wright and Les Ferdinand, are short of match practice and, to that end, are likely to appear at some stage in the friendly against Saudi Arabia at Wembley on Saturday, which is the immediate priority.

Of the 30 players who will train at Bisham Abbey this morning, eight must be discarded before the deadline of June 2, but Hoddle appears in no rush. The entire squad is expected to travel to La Manga, the golf resort in southern Spain, on Monday, from which they will fly to Casablanca for the Hassan II International Cup for matches against Morocco and Belgium on May 27 and 29.

Meanwhile, the Football Associ-

ation is ready to confirm the renewal of its kit deal with Umbro in a contract expected to last for another five years. Puma and Nike had submitted offers and there had been increasing speculation that the agreement with Umbro might fall through because of company restructuring, which delayed the publishing of accounts. The deal is now ready to be ratified, however, and could earn the FA around £50 million.

The FA yesterday attempted to play down speculation linking Howard Wilkinson, its technical director, with the managerial vacancy at Sheffield Wednesday. Wilkinson, who was manager at Hillsborough between 1983 and 1988, has been put forward after the sacking of Ron Atkinson.

Wilkinson, however, has 2½ years left on his contract with the FA, and Lancaster Gate sources said yesterday they did not expect an official approach.

Howard Kendall's position as manager will be top of the agenda at a meeting of the Everton board today after the club's last-day escape from relegation from the FA Carling Premiership. The Merseyside club has been watching events at Fildes Street with interest, believing that Martin O'Neill is exactly the type of young, dynamic manager they need to take the club forward. O'Neill has been in dispute over boardroom changes that, he fears, could stifle his ambitions.

Manchester United are adamant that they will not be held to ransom over the signing of Marc-Vivien Foe, the Cameroon defender. Lens, the French champions, have now demanded up to £8 million. United, who have offered £3 million, will refuse to go above £5 million. "The two clubs are a long way apart," Martin Edwards, the United chairman, said. "If a second offer is rejected, that will be the end of it."

At Ryan Green, of Wolverhampton Wanderers, is set to become Wales's youngest full international next month. Ryan Giggs made his international bow against Germany in Nuremberg at just 17 years and 321 days. If Green, a defender, plays in Malta on June 3, he will beat that by more than 100 days. He will be 17 years and 219 days old if he plays against Malta.



Kendall: uncertain future



Hackney's classy bunker shot at the last helped her to a share of second place behind Se, the resilient rookie, at Wilmington

Asia owes first US major to minor

By Patricia Davies

SE RI PAK serenely played her way into the sport's consciousness with a cool, controlled victory in the McDonald's LPGA championship at the DuPont Country Club in Wilmington, Delaware, on Sunday. A rookie of rare quality, she seems set for a long and illustrious career.

Se, 20, from South Korea, is the first Asian to win a major championship in the United States and the youngest woman to win a major in more than 60 years - Betty Hicks, aged 17, and Patty Berg, 19, both won titles in 1937. Despite her years she remained oblivious to the hype, of which there was plenty. She did

not drop a shot in a seemingly nervous final round of 68, three under par, to win by three shots from Lisa Hackney, from Staffordshire, and Donna Andrews, from North Carolina, with a total of 273, 11 under.

The sturdy, sweet-swinging, sweet-smiling youngster led from start to finish to record her first victory on the LPGA Tour and was as unfazed on the course as off it, where her manager fielded an avalanche of calls from journalists and well-wishers, including a former president of her country. Most

notably, Se did not panic during a third round of 72 that included a frustrating 34 putts and a revealing moment at the 3rd hole, where she drove into the water. There were no tantrums, no sulks, just a sublime five-wood to five feet and one putt for a remarkable par.

In the final round, Pak held firm in the face of a chasing pack that included five players who had won major championships. "She never looked like making a mistake," Hackney, who was a little disappointed with her own closing 71, said. The Englishwoman, who had

birdsies at the 10th and 11th holes to draw level with Se at nine under par, felt that she lost her chance with a bogey four at the 13th after a bad tee-shot, and the South Korean effectively closed out all opposition with birdsies at the 15th and 16th.

Hackney has still to win in the United States, but it should not be long. This was her best finish in a major championship and her biggest cheque, \$104,666 (about £60,000), which came courtesy of classy bunker shots at the 17th and 18th holes that set up valuable, par-saving three-foot putts.

Catrin Nilsson, of Sweden, moved into a share of ninth place with a 67 and there were encouraging performances from the rookies Maria Hjorth, another Swede, and Janice Moodie, of Scotland.

Hjorth finished with three birdsies for a 68 and a tie for sixteenth place, and Moodie, untruffled by a two-shot penalty for slow play in the first round, signed off with a 67 that featured a double bogey at the 3rd and eight birdsies. She was 21st, alongside Helen Dobson, of Lincolnshire, and earned \$13,558. However, she slips to second place in the Rolex rookie-of-the-year points table, behind Se, with Hjorth third.

It was a frustrating week for Laura Davies on the course - the Briton matched par only in the last round - but she had more success off the track, doing more World Cup tickets for England matches via an advertisement in USA Today.

Martin earns exemption for Open

By Mel Webb

MIGUEL ANGEL MARTIN, the Spanish golfer who was unable to play in the Europe Ryder Cup team because of injury last September, has been exempted from the final qualifying stages of the Open Championship at Royal Birkdale in July.

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club has accorded Martin the status of a member of the Ryder Cup team, even though a wrist injury meant that he had to be replaced. Martin was tenth in the qualifying table but his place was taken by José María Olazábal.

Martin's refusal to take a fitness test on an appointed date resulted in a series of increasingly acrimonious exchanges between his

lawyers and the Ryder Cup committee. The matter came to a head in Ryder Cup week at Valderrama.

Martin met representatives of the PGA European Tour and the Ryder Cup committee and a compromise was reached. Ken Schofield, the executive director of the Tour, said that Martin's exemption for his events this season would be enforced and promised him that the Tour would do everything in its power to ensure that all relevant bodies would be lobbied to give him full Ryder Cup status.

At first, Martin said that he would remain with the team,

which went on to defend the Cup successfully against the United States, but later changed his mind and returned to his home in Madrid.

He claims to have forgiven the Ryder Cup committee and Severiano Ballesteros, the Europe captain, who made several disparaging remarks about his compatriot when the row was at its height. However, Martin has clearly not forgotten what he regarded as high-handed treatment and, earlier this month, refused to attend a lunch given by the Spanish Prime Minister in honour of those countrymen who had been involved in the first Ryder Cup match to be held on Spanish soil.

Advertisement for FORTHCOMING COMPANY GOLF DAYS, listing various golf courses and dates.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Cullen out of World Cup squad

HOCKEY: Tina Cullen, the in-form England striker, was yesterday ruled out of the World Cup finals in Utrecht with a broken jaw (Cathy Harris writes). Cullen, who suffered the injury last Tuesday in the match against Australia at Milton Keynes, is replaced by Sarah Blanks, of Leicester.

Mandy Nicholls, Cullen's fellow Olympic forward, who had already pulled out of the squad after breaking her thumb, has been replaced by Lisa Copeland, her Slough team-mate. England face India tomorrow in their opening match.

TENNIS: Tim Henman has dropped one place, to No 18, in the ATP Tour rankings that were announced yesterday. Henman's demotion was due to the outstanding clay-court form of Albert Costa, the Spaniard, who has jumped from 20 to 13 after reaching the final of the Italian Open on Sunday.

Greg Rusedzki, the British No 1, remains at No 5 in the rankings.

RUGBY UNION: England will send a seven-side to the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur this September, despite having withdrawn from the Hong Kong Sevens this year. Scotland will not be taking part due to "the competing demands on players", but Fiji and New Zealand, both sevens specialists, will send strong squads.

SHOOTING: Richard Faulds, 21, set a world final record at the UTT World Cup clay pigeon match at Atlanta, Georgia, in securing Britain's first shooting place for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. Faulds, the European champion, scored 193 out of 200 in the double trap.

FOR THE RECORD

CRICKET

One day international: Bangladesh v Kenya. HYDERABAD: Bangladesh beat Kenya by six wickets.

Kenya: C. Chudeema run out; K. Oloro c Hasibul b Mordred; M. Oloro c Hasibul b Mordred; M. Oloro c Hasibul b Mordred; M. Oloro c Hasibul b Mordred.

Kenya: C. Chudeema run out; K. Oloro c Hasibul b Mordred; M. Oloro c Hasibul b Mordred; M. Oloro c Hasibul b Mordred; M. Oloro c Hasibul b Mordred.

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FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Semi-final play-offs: Eastern Conference: Chicago led Detroit 2-1.

BOXING: NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY: Buss championship boxing tournament.

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ATHLETICS

Pascoe puts everything into vision for future

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

ALAN PASCOE, the former Commonwealth and European 400 metres hurdles champion, who has been successful in business as he was on the track, is stepping aside as chairman of one of the world's leading sports and event marketing companies. The decision will free him to play a direct role in helping British athletics back to its feet.

Pascoe's first project after leaving The API Group, the company that carries his initials and whose last registered turnover was in excess of £50 million, will be to run the commercial side of the sport in Britain. He has held exclusive rights to market British athletics since 1985 but, under a new deal, to be explained today, he will take responsibility for promoting the main televised meetings.

By leaving API, Pascoe will have greater influence in how athletics is managed. He said that he would be taking a "hands-on approach to the relaunch of the commercial programme".

Pascoe's personal fortune was built out of obtaining the marketing rights for British athletics in 1985 and transforming the British Athletic Federation's (BAF) annual income of £300,000 to £5 million, taking 20 per cent. However, declining television and sponsorship interest in 1996 led to a financial crisis and the BAF went into administration last October, with debts of £2 million.

All but a handful of BAF staff were made redundant and, at the press conference today, Pascoe and David Moorcroft, the chief executive of UK Athletics 98, the interim governing body, will "outline their shared vision for an exciting future".

Pascoe claims that API "has brought more money into British sport than any other agency". Octagon, the sports marketing and entertainment group, announced yesterday that, having bought 60 per cent of API 12 months ago, it had acquired the remaining 40 per cent. It plans to merge API with another of its companies, Advantage International.

"I had what most people in the industry would have bitten your hand off for - an opportunity to go on the main board of Octagon - but I have felt for some time that I have got further away from the things that drew me into it in the first place," Pascoe said. "That was to be hands-on to client activities and I am leaving to do that. In the short term, this will enable my team to focus completely on athletics work."

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing today's fixtures for Cricket, Football, Tennis, and other sports.

Large advertisement for Greenwood England, featuring a portrait of a man and text about New Zealand.

RUGBY UNION: WOODWARD'S PLANS DEALT ANOTHER BLOW

Greenwood pulls out of England touring party

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE England tour party to the southern hemisphere, already demurred by a dozen players unfit to travel, lost yet another when Will Greenwood withdrew yesterday.

able to confirm the addition to their squad next season of Tim Stimpson, the Newcastle full back who has spent so long on the sidelines. Stimpson has added only one cap to his tally this season — as a replacement against South Africa — and has been involved in a contractual wrangle with Newcastle as they proceeded towards the Allied Dunbar Premiership title with Stuart Legg at full back.

with Bristol on Sunday but, under English bylaws, is allowed to play until a disciplinary hearing, which will not be staged until the tour has ended. Had he still been playing in Scotland, Lee would have been suspended until the hearing.

Scotland are already without seven senior players, among them Doddie Weir, Gary Armstrong and Alan Tai, who have done so much to help Newcastle to their league title. Andy Nicol, the

Bath captain, who damaged a hamstring against Newcastle, has been replaced by Iain Fairley, of Kelso, Scotland, who open with a full international against Fiji in the heat of Siva on May 26, will play seven matches in Australia, two of them internationals.

Gregor Townsend, whose form in midfield will be crucial to the party, will join Brive on his return. His new contract with the 1997 Heineken Cup winners starts in July.

Thomas Castaignède became the inaugural winner of the Heineken European player-of-the-season award yesterday, clinching the verdict ahead of his fellow countrymen, Philippe Carbonneau and Christian Calmano.

The Castres fly half is keen to play in England and has been approached by three clubs since the Five Nations Championship. "I have to make up my mind whether to come here or to stay at home," he said. "I will decide by the end of the week."

Householder has been docked league points for fielding an ineligible player, Martyn Kimber, and thus change mid-table places with Sale in the first division.



Greenwood: told to rest

Considering the relief with which Clive Woodward, the national coach, greeted Greenwood's availability when the threat of suspension for butting that hung over him was lifted, his absence now is doubly distressing. "We're both very disappointed, but I will continue to consider an addition to the squad," Woodward said.

He already has 17 uncapped players in his squad and must anticipate adding an eighth, unless Nick Greenwood can be persuaded to tour. Greenwood, the Wasps centre capped last year, also requires a recovery period for a shoulder injury that leaves the most likely candidates as Matt Allen, of Northampton, who toured in Argentina with England last summer, and Peter Mensah, of Harlequins. Leicester, however, were

Wells relishes his perfect day

Keith Blackmore on the student of baseball's past who has secured his own place in history

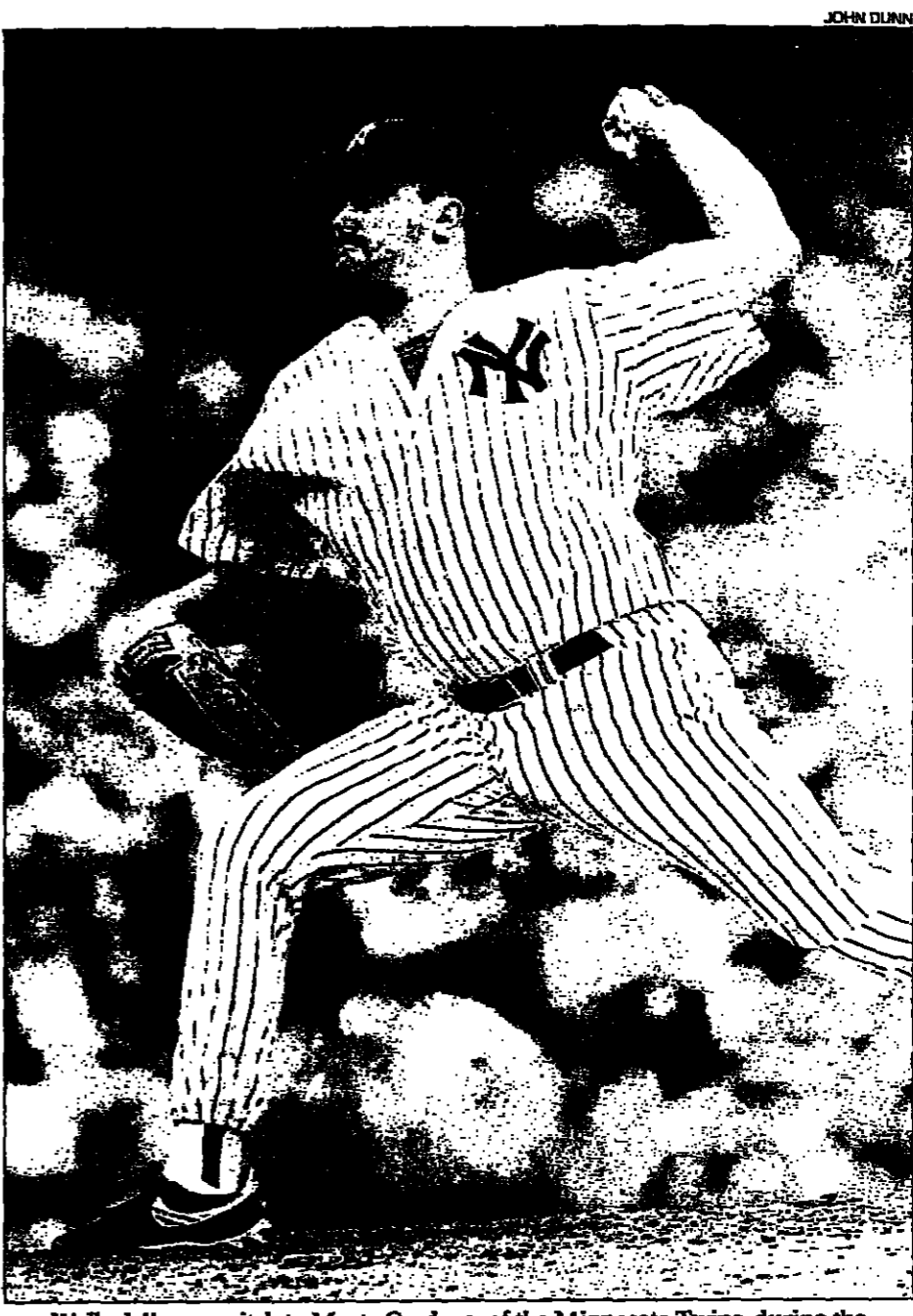
A Major League baseball season took two further twists at the weekend, one on the field, the other off it. On Sunday, David Wells, of the New York Yankees, pitched a perfect game against the Minnesota Twins, thereby overshadowing one of the biggest trades in the sport's history.

A perfect game is exactly what it sounds: one pitcher throwing for nine innings, making 27 outs and conceding no errors, walks or hits. It has only been done 15 times at the highest level: twice in 1880, 12 times in the regular season this century and once, most memorably of all, by Don Larsen, another Yankee, against the Brooklyn Dodgers in the World Series of 1956.

Wells's effort gave the Yankees a 4-0 win and was the first perfect game since Kenny Rogers pitched one for the Texas Rangers against the California Angels in 1994. It could hardly have happened to a more unlikely figure. The rotund Wells suffers from gout and looks more like a trucker than an athlete. However, it could not have happened to anyone better qualified to enjoy it. Wells has a keen sense of baseball history and his enthusiasm for its greatest hero, Babe Ruth, knows no bounds. Wells is a big player in the market for Ruth memorabilia and was once ordered by his manager to change his cap. The one he was wearing had belonged to Ruth.

When the last out was made on Sunday, Paul O'Neill taking a routine catch in shallow right field, the rest of the Yankees mobbed Wells and the packed stadium went berserk. "Couldn't happen to a crazier guy," the euphoric pitcher admitted. "This is something you think about and dream about every time you go out there."

At Piazza, by contrast, would never have dreamed of what happened to him over the weekend. Long established as the premier power-hitting catcher in the game, he was traded from one of the



Wells delivers a pitch to Marty Cordova, of the Minnesota Twins, during the display that earned him a niche in baseball history at the Yankee Stadium

traditional National League powers, the Los Angeles Dodgers, to one of the worst teams, the Florida Marlins. True, the Marlins are the World Series champions, but the trade that brought them Piazza completed the dismantling of the team that won the Fall Classic only seven months ago. As Piazza headed north, Sheffield, Bobby Bonilla, Charles Johnson and Jim Eisenreich, headed west, thus leaving the Marlins' cupboard all but bare.

Wayne Huizenga, owner of the Marlins, having spent shamelessly to win the series, has equally shamelessly cut

the budget since, shedding 12 players before the new season began. The latest changes have removed another \$20 million from the payroll. Soon the team will be cheap enough to sell. Only Liván Hernández, the Cuban pitcher, remains of the stars of last October and the team is far adrift at the bottom of the National League East.

To some extent, Piazza has only himself to blame. His relationship with the Dodgers never recovered from his decision at the start of this season to decline an offer of \$80 million for six more years in Los Angeles. He was said to

want \$100 million for seven years. The good news for him is that his stay in Florida will certainly be brief. The Marlins have already admitted that they cannot afford him next season and he will either be traded later this summer or move on when he becomes a free agent at the end of the year. Either way, he can expect to be the best paid player in the sport by this time next year.

Meanwhile, he must get used to life at the bottom. The Marlins have lost both games they have played since the trade was completed. The Dodgers have won both.

New Zealand expose limitations

David Hands says the women's rugby World Cup illustrated a gulf in standards

NEW Zealand, just as they have done in the men's game, set a new target of excellence when they carried off the women's World Cup in Amsterdam. In beating the United States 44-12, they set a standard to which others will aspire between now and the fourth tournament, in 2002.

Spain, the most popular team in the tournament. Yet if Canada, ranked fourth, could be beaten 81-15 by England in the third-place play-off, it indicates a gulf between the top three countries and the rest.

"We looked at where we were four years ago and there has been a 100 per cent improvement," Jill Zonneveld, the Canadian representative

money." For those reasons, the venue is likely to be in Europe or North America, where access to sponsorship and television is greater.

Some 2,500 watched Vanessa Coates score five of New Zealand's eight tries against the Americans on Sunday and confirm a technical expertise well in advance of any rival. The "Gal Blacks" had received coaching from John Hart and several members of his New Zealand men's squad and neither England in the semi-finals nor the Americans in the final could live with them.

It remains to be seen whether long-standing members of the England squad, which began with such high hopes of a successful defence of their 1994 title, will continue. An excellent spirit has been bred over the past three weeks and players such as Sue Day — switched to full back — and Jo Yapp, the 18-year-old scrum half, have received invaluable exposure.



Members of the New Zealand team celebrate success

SHEEHAN ON BRIDGE advertisement with logo and text.

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT. This is a defensive problem from last year's Gold Cup. Dealer West Love All IMPs

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: ace of clubs. The standard arrangement when partner leads an ace against a suit contract and dummy comes down with a singleton in the suit is to signal suit preference. So when East followed to trick one with his smallest club, the three West switched to diamonds, the lower-ranking suit.

KEENE ON CHESS advertisement with logo and text.

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT. Championship prospects. Later this month Alexei Shirov and Vladimir Kramnik will contest a ten-game match to decide the qualification for Garry Kasparov's world title defence.

Diagram of final position chess board with piece positions and text.

WORD-WATCHING advertisement with list of words and definitions.

WINNING MOVE advertisement with chess board and text.

SUNDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Table of sports scores including football, tennis, and other sports results.

CRICKET: DURHAM OPENER GRACES FENNER'S ANNIVERSARY WITH CENTURY

Gough writes a piece of history

By JOHN STERN
FENNER'S (first day of three: Durham won toss): Cambridge University, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 249 runs behind Durham

match here, although we were spared any tears as he cut a cake during the tea interval to mark the Fenner's birthday. Before 1848, Cambridge played their cricket on Parker's Piece, which is almost next door to Fenner's, but was considered "too public" by F. P. Fenner, who had been closely associated with Cambridge cricket for some years. He had been promised support for a new ground by members of I Zingari and, in 1846, he posted a notice that read: "F. P. Fenner, of the Hon F. Ponsoby XI and the Cambridge Town Club, begs to inform the noblemen and the gentlemen lovers of cricket that he has enclosed and levelled a piece of ground where gentlemen can practise the noble game of cricket."

day for history revision for Ed Smith, the Kent opening batsman, who averaged 51 and 68 in his first two years at Cambridge. Smith, though, has his final looming so is missing from this fixture to concentrate on attaining a first-class honours degree to add to his first-class centuries. The rigours of law finals also kept Anurag Singh, the Cambridge University captain, confined to barracks and Adam Janisch, the opening bowler, was also unavailable.

All this will mean little to Gough, a tall right-hander who eschewed academia — albeit A levels rather than tertiary education — to commit himself full-time to Durham. He made a determined and valuable 62 on his first-class debut last week in Durham's victory against Essex. Yesterday, he was equally single-minded in pursuit of his maiden century, batting with admirable concentration and not offering a single chance before he was run out for 123.

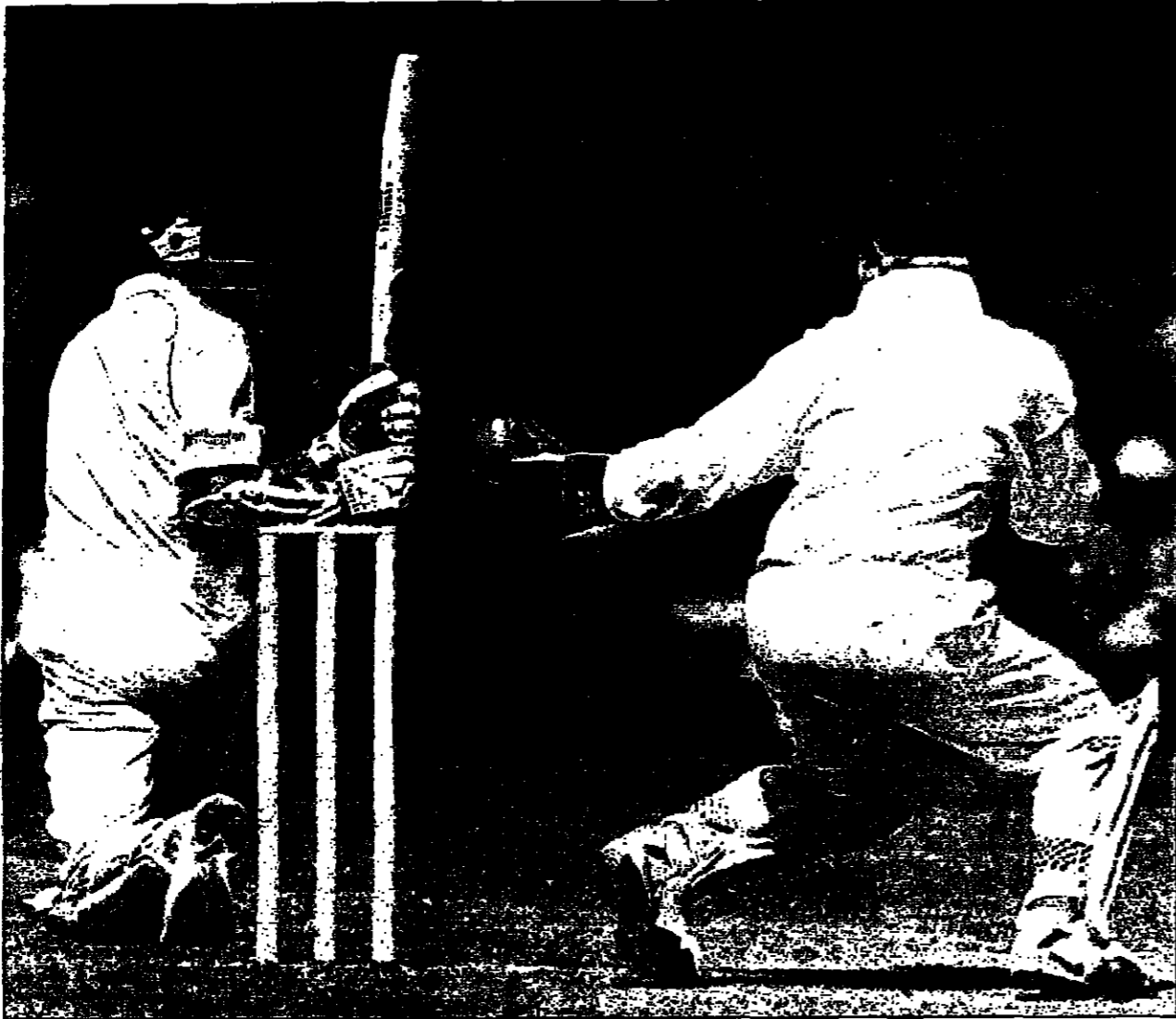
Gough did not, and does not, score quickly but, as he showed on the England Under-19 tour of South Africa last winter, he is a man who will not give up his wicket cheaply. He reached his century with only his sixth boundary, a forcing shot off the back foot, square of the wicket. He still posted three figures before Stewart Hutton, however, although his century took 200 balls compared with Gough's 242. Their opening partnership of 227, in 76 overs, was the third highest for any wicket in Durham's brief first-class history. With four of Durham's first-choice top six either injured or rested, Hutton, ten years Gough's senior, took his chance to impress with a touch more vigour, hitting 12 boundaries. After a declaration at 270, Durham's day was rounded off by three wickets in seven balls for Simon Brown, playing his first first-team match of the season after injury.

SCOREBOARD FROM FENNER'S

Table with 2 columns: DURHAM: First Innings and CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First Innings. Lists players and their scores.

Frost douses students' early fire

By BARNEY SPENDER
THE PARKS (first day of three: Warwickshire won toss): Oxford University, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 281 runs behind Warwickshire



Sheikh, the Warwickshire opener, sweeps and wrong-foots Barnes, the Oxford University wicketkeeper

ON days such as this, there is no better place to watch cricket than The Parks. The sun, tentative in the morning, burned brightly in the afternoon as students, sipping cold drinks and pretending to revise for their exams, lazed happily on the boundary edge. Inspector Morse, the remembrance man of television detectives, would have been in his element but, perversely, this glorious day was dominated by a man called Frost.

With Keith Piper away on compassionate leave after the death of his grandmother, Tony Frost has taken his opportunities both behind the stumps and at the crease with some aplomb. He kept tidily in the game against Derbyshire last week, taking six catches in the match and making 33 in his only innings.

Yesterday, he improved on that with his maiden first-class hundred, a chanceless innings of 111 not out that came in 34 hours and included 15 fours and one six. It is easy, of course, to denigrate any achievement against the universities but, on this occasion, Frost had to bat rather well to make his runs.

When he came to the crease at the fall of the fourth wicket, Warwickshire were in the process of a collapse that saw five wickets fall for 34 runs in 21 tidy overs.

Byron Byrne, an off-spinning all-rounder from Sydney who won his Blue last year, set the ball rolling when he found some extra bounce to find the edge of Mohamed Sheikh's bat to end an opening partnership of 71.

Five overs later, Stuart Ferguson, a medium-pace, moved a ball away from Michael Powell and also found the edge. Both times, Jeremy Barnes, the wicket-keeper, showed a sureness

with the gloves to suggest that his parishioners will be in safe hands when he is ordained into the Church of England. Dominic Oakes and David Herron both succumbed before lunch and when Charlie Lightfoot, a left-arm spinner, had Graeme Welch leg before, the professionals were struggling to get a touch on 105 for five.

Frost, however, was quickly into his stride and received good support from Dougie Brown, Michael Edmund and Neil Smith to take Warwickshire to the safer pastures of 307 for seven. Tim Munton

had time to pick up his first wicket since September 1996 when he trapped Doug Lockhart, the Scotland opener, before, but Byrne earned the bowlers' plaudits for the day. He joined the attack 51 minutes into play and bowled unchanged for 35 overs — four hours and eight minutes in the boiling sun. He began to feel the strain towards the end, but figures of three for 103 reflected splendidly on a big-hearted performance. He was one student who thoroughly deserved a cold drink at the end of it.

SCOREBOARD FROM THE PARKS

Table with 2 columns: WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings and OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First Innings. Lists players and their scores.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Welsh trio plan code switch

THE Wales forwards, Paul Moriarty, Mark Jones and Rowland Phillips, are likely to make a brief switch back from rugby union for the revival of the Wales team against England this summer.

The trio have made themselves available for the match at Widnes on July 19. Clive Griffiths, the Wales coach, hopes to get insurance clearance from Swansea, Ebbw Vale and London Welsh, his own club, where Phillips had a release clause inserted into his contract. Kevin Ellis, the Sale and former Warrington scrum half, has also asked

to be considered. Griffiths has to strike a balance among former league players making a one-off return, existing league players and those with longer-term ambitions to represent a possible Cardiff or Swansea franchise club in the IJB Super League.

Wales are also due to meet New Zealand on October 27, two months into the union season, when clubs would refuse to release players, although that date is unconfirmed. Despite the surprise recent defeat of Australia by New

Zealand, the game there is in sharp decline, and this was underlined by the news yesterday that the ailing Auckland Warriors club is up for sale.

Meanwhile, the Super League set a three-year attendance record of 54,901 for matches at the weekend, helped by an 18,000 capacity crowd at Leeds and 16,337 at Bradford.

Glen Tomlinson, the Hull Sharks Australian scrum half, could be sidelined for 18 months after suffering a compound fracture of the leg in the defeat away to St Helens on Sunday.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Doctor who can't carry on

Home Ground: The Doctor's Story BBC2, 7.30pm

The latest BBC regional documentary to receive national exposure comes from Wales and is the story of a rural GP as he approaches retirement after 42 years. George Fenn, you might think, is a throwback to another era. He believes in the National Health Service, set up just before he qualified, in small-sized practices and in visiting his patients instead of demanding that they attend the surgery. He covers 200 square miles of Carmarthenshire in a Morris Minor, itself a symbol of a past age, and his easy bedside manner makes him a friend as well as a doctor. But he is almost 70, the age at which he must retire. The film follows him on his final rounds and charts the fraught process that chooses his successor. Warm though it is, Samantha Kroski's film was a deserved prize-winner in the Royal Television Society awards.



Jean Alexander in Liverpool (BBC2, 8pm)

One Foot in the Past BBC2, 8.00pm

The heritage series has not one but two celebrity presenters this week and both have genuine tales to tell. Jean Alexander, 200 square miles of Carmarthenshire in a Morris Minor, himself a symbol of a past age, and his easy bedside manner makes him a friend as well as a doctor. But he is almost 70, the age at which he must retire. The film follows him on his final rounds and charts the fraught process that chooses his successor. Warm though it is, Samantha Kroski's film was a deserved prize-winner in the Royal Television Society awards.

The film is the result of a year of secret filming by an undercover diarist among shooters at two gun clubs. It reveals that even before the bill banning handguns passed into law, owners and members of some clubs were determined to find loopholes that would allow them to continue their activities. One ploy was to customise weapons by shortening the barrels. If evasions of the ban are disturbing enough, arguably even more alarming is the demonstration of how law security is making it easy to remove weapons from some gun clubs.

Knocking At Doomsday's Door ITV except Scotland and Ulster, 10.40pm

Prophets of doom and disaster are nothing new in the history of the human race but as the millennium approaches their cries are getting more shrill. Lawrence Moore's film rounds up a selection of the more hair-raising predictions, some with a plausible scientific basis and others without. 'Rogue' asteroids have become a favourite subject of doom-watchers, as are faster and less predictable comets. An American professor says there are 1,700 asteroids which could hit the Earth and do terrible damage, though he is vague about when and if it could happen. A British professor is more reassuring. Perhaps the Americans are better at dire predictions than we are. A more likely scenario is the spread of new infectious diseases. After all, 30 have already emerged in only the past two decades. Peter Waymark

Undercover Britain: Gun Law Channel 4, 9.30pm

The latest in the series of reports by hidden camera suggests that some gun enthusiasts are determined to find ways round the new legislation introduced in the wake of the Dunblane massacre.

RADIO CHOICE

The Cheese Shop Presents: The Butter Factor Radio 4, 6.30pm

The Cheese Shop is a collective of six young comedy writers and performers (Gerard Foster, Dave Lamb, Gordon Southern, Tim Verrinder, Ben Ward and Richard Webb) and this is the start of their second series for Radio 4. A late-night slot is usually reserved for this kind of comedy but it works just as well here, though some of the material risks complaints at this early hour. There is a wonderful sketch tonight in which the teenage Liverpool football star Michael Owen is portrayed as "Michael Owen from 4b" and is required to read out a match report to the school assembly — "at half time Mr Evans shouted at us" and "after the game we went on to Cinderella's night spot and a lady gave me this, it's called a girl's bra."

The Hot Club of France Radio 2, 9.00pm

This programme starts with Count Basie's orchestra playing Panassié Stomp, dedicated to Hugues Panassié, founder of the Paris organisation called the Hot Club of France, which was to spawn the Quintet of the Hot Club of France and make international stars of Stephane Grappelli and Django Reinhardt. Panassié was caught up in the Charlier craze but contracted polio as a teenager and had to give up dancing. Instead he learnt the saxophone and thanks to a teacher with, for the time, modernist tendencies, Panassié was introduced to the music of the great American jazz players, but they toned down their music for the French audience. Panassié wanted it "hot" and that he determined to bring about. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevn Greengrass/206 Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiteley 2.00 Mark Radcliffe/3.00 Pop Science 8.00 News (648 only) News in German 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 Concert Hall 10.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 Moments of Truth 10.30 Show Train 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 On Screen 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30 Newsdesk Among the Nations 1.00 News (648 only) News in German 1.05 World Business Report 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Health Matters 1.45 Sports Roundup 2.00 Newshour 3.00 News 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Hit Back Hit 4.00 News 4.30 Sports Roundup 4.35 Westway 4.30 The Greenfield Collector (648 only) News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Britain Today 6.00 News 6.15 Insight 6.30 Soundbyte (648 only) News in German 6.45 Sports Roundup 7.00 Newsdesk 7.30 One Planet 8.00 News 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Pause for Thought 8.30 Megamix 9.00 Newshour 10.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Meridian Live 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Insight 11.45 Sports Roundup 12.00 News 12.05am Outlook 12.30 Megamix 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 The Farming World 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Discovery 3.00 Newshour 3.30 Meridian Live 4.00 News 4.05 World Business Report 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 The World Today 5.00 The World Today

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Wogan 9.30 Johnnie Walker 11.30 Jimmy 2.00 Mark Radcliffe/3.00 Newsdesk 4.00 News 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Alan Freeman 8.00 Nigel Ogden 9.00 The Hot Club of France. See Choice 10.00 East Side Story 10.30 Richard Atkinson 12.05am Steve Mackdon 3.00 Annie O'Han

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Ruscoe and Co 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Any Sporting Questions 9.00 Extra Time 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night

VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Chris Evans 10.00 Paul Coyle 1.00pm Nick Abbott 4.00 Robin Banks 7.30 Ray Cokes 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Colin Jones 5.00 Jeremy Clark 8.00 Jeremy Clark

TALK RADIO

6.30am Kirsty Young with Bill Overton 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dingley 7.00 Alan Reabum 9.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Patric Trelawny 9.00 Masterworks, with Perry Gore 10.30 Artist of the Week: Melvyn Tan 11.30 Sound Stories: Shakespeare 12.00 Composer of the Week: Vivaldi 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert, Gordon Granger-Thompson, piano; Debussy: Gettempeur Hommage à Haydn; Ravel (Menuet Sur le Nom d'Haydn; Une Barque Sur l'Océan); (1) 2.00 The BBC Orchestra: Usher Orchestra, under Vernon Handley, Jan Lehaem-Koenig and Andrew McGregor, Chantal Juillet, violin; Hilda Smith (Symphonic Metamorphosis of Themes by Weber); Strauss (Metamorphosen); Well (Concerto for Violin and Wind Ensemble); Dvořák (Legend in G minor); Glasunov (Symphony No 4) 4.00 Voices: Vesselina Kasarova (1/2) (1) 4.45 Music Machine: The Indian Subcontinent. Vicky Sharp looks at the issue of gender in the music of the Indian subcontinent. 5.00 in Tune. Sean Rafferty talks to guitarist Leo

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Breakfast with Bailey 8.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Lunchtime Jazz with 8.00pm Concerto in G, James Cavie 6.30 News 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven 8.00 Evening Concert: Johann Strauss II (Roses from the South); Darius (In a Summer Garden); Glare (The Red Poppy Suite); Granger (Lindisfarne Poem) 11.00 Marn at Night 2.00am Concerto (1) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

RADIO 4

6.00am Today, includes 6.55, 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sports News 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament 9.00 The Choice, with Michael Burk 9.45 (FM) Serial: Before I Say Goodbye (2/5) 9.45 (LW) Daily Service 10.00 News: Women's Hour 11.00 News: Every Breath You Take (1) 11.30 The Emerald Green Show: Cuff (2/4) 12.00 News: You and Yours 12.57pm Weather 12.00 (LW) News Headlines: Shing Forecast 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clegg 1.30 Full Orchestra, with Tommy Pearson 2.00 News: The Archers (1) 2.15 Afternoon Play: And the Birds Are Sing (Sung in G minor): Glasunov (Symphony No 4) 3.00 News: The Exchange (0171) 580 4444 3.30 The Last of the Mohicans (2/5) 3.45 An English Pastoral Anthology 4.00 News: The Learning Curve, with the Times

columnist Libby Purves 4.30 Shop Talk 5.00 PM 5.54 (LW) Shipping 5.57 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 The Cheese Shop Presents: The Butter Factor. See Choice 7.00 News: The Archers 7.15 Front Row 7.45 Postcards: The Last Waltz (2/5) (1) 8.00 News: Where Have All the Flowers Gone? 8.40 in Touch, with Peter White 9.00 News: Case Notes, with Graham Easton 9.30 The Choice (1) 10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton 10.45 Book at Bedtime: A Kind of Loving (7/10) 11.00 Late Night on 4: On the Town with the League of Gentlemen. A blackly comic sketch show (1) 11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament 11.30 Talking Pictures (1) 12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: About a Boy, by Nick Hornby (2/10) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE: RADIO 1, FM 87.6-99.8; RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2; RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4; RADIO 4, FM 82.4-84.8; LW 198; MW 720; RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 630; CLASSIC FM, FM 105.1-102; VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1157, 1215; TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1030. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Answers from page 53

JOGET

(a) A Malay popular dance, in which the couple improvises to the accompanying music. Also the place where such dancing occurs. The Malaysian word. "It is the Malaysian joy dancing. It was rather like an Oriental version of jiving, with the boy and girl facing each other and executing intricate steps to the rhythmic music, but never actually touching each other."

MAND

(b) B. F. Skinner's philosophical term for an utterance aimed at producing an effect or result. The final element of command, demand, etc.

MISO

(c) A paste, made from soya beans and barley or rice malt, used by the Japanese in preparing various foods. The Japanese word. "The lighter Japanese prior-level is accounted for largely by such 'sliced' goods as red beans, miso, dried bonito, etc."

NARJUTE

(a) The tangerine or mandarin orange. Afrikaans from the Tamil nararati citrus. "Couldn't the orange [of air-hostesses uniforms] be toned down a little and the blue be slightly deeper? No wonder the poor girls are referred to as narjutes."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Qd7+1 Kd7; 2. Be6+ Kb6; 3. Ng4 checkmate.

Large advertisement for MasterFit. Features the text 'SURPRISE! SURPRISE!' and 'The price we quote is the price you pay.' Includes an image of a woman in a fitness setting and the MasterFit logo.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring the word 'Hello' and other text, possibly for a newspaper or magazine.

'Ello, 'ello, 'ello, what's coming off 'ere then?

People often wonder what makes a man wake up one morning and decide that he wants to become a policeman...

him at which police station he could buy his stock back. But how did one go about bringing a copper? "Quite simple," explained Jim Humphreys...

the larger, more regular payments that were made to senior coppers in those days before 24-hour cashpoint machines made it possible for even honest citizens to obtain money on demand...



REVIEW

Joe Joseph

protected neither. It was after being framed by bent coppers - another Scotland Yard speciality - that Jim and Rusty Humphreys provided the evidence of corruption that led to a dozen officers being imprisoned...

by made their own fun by trying to guess which six officers in Scotland Yard weren't corrupt. When Simon Berthon and Daniel Korn set about making their film, for which they managed to land a more meagre haul...

ality" he so desperately aches to become. Impound him, somebody! Last night's Reputations: Jacques Cousteau (BBC2) was also trawling for corruption...

the world, a nose they used as a prototype for Concorde, and the ability to make millions of people tune in to watch his Undersea World programmes about fish...

- BBC1
6.00am Business Breakfast (91432)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (78906)
9.00 Change That (8040345)
9.25 K9 (9559628)
10.05 A Date with Fate (7354797)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (78003513)
10.35 The Really Useful Show (71409038)
11.35 The General (8468258)
12.00 News (7) and weather (9815432)
12.05pm Woman's Web (3947628)
1.00 News (7) and weather (71053)
1.30 Regional News (7) (13546428)
1.40 The Weather Show (22949884)
1.45 Neighbours (7) (95339426)
2.10 Racing from Goodwood The 2.40, 3.10, and the 3.40 races (585635)
3.50 Rupert (7) (5673364) 3.55 Arthur (7) (1118600) 4.20 Julia Jekyll and Hamiel Hyde (7) (7186567) 4.35 Out of Tune (7) (1185677) 5.00 Newsworld (7) (8368114)
5.10 Bright Sparks News Series. Diane-Louise Jordan and Toby Anstis meet young achievers, beginning with reports on a teenage illusionist, a figure skater and a boy who fancies himself as the new Walt Disney (7) (8188703)
5.35 Neighbours (7) (7) (124277)
6.00 News (7) and weather (108)
6.30 Regional News (7) (161)
7.00 Holiday: Fasten Your Seatbelt Toyah Wilcox becomes a camel guide in Israel's Negev Desert; in Bedford, John Holdsworth joins the Moscow State Circus (7) (2451)
7.30 Standstills Tiffany and Simon find their mother's apologies hard to accept (7) (345)
8.00 Children's Hospital The pain becomes too much to bear for a youngster suffering from a rare bowel complaint, and a child experiencing breathing difficulties sets alarm bells ringing for the staff (7) (5971)
8.30 A Prince Among Men Gary carries out emergency first aid during a charity soccer match, but his actions land him in court. With Chris Barrie (7) (7906)
9.00 News (7) and weather (4800)
9.30 CrimeWatch UK Introduced by Nick Ross and Jill Dando (7) (648567)
10.20 999 Michael Buerk and Donna Bernard introduce more real-life horrors, featuring a cardiac disaster, a family stranded on a boat and a man slowly strangled by a freak accident on an escalator (7) (590616) WALES: 10.20 Week in Week Out (533155) 11.40 CrimeWatch UK Updates (836355) 11.55 11.45 The Power of One (7) (1833) 1.45am News (3130827) 1.50 BBC News 24
11.10 CrimeWatch UK Update (7) (754529)
11.20 The Power of One (1991) Stephen Dorif stars as an English youngling challenging racism in his South African school in the 1950s by mixing with black boys in the boarding ring. Also starring Morgan Freeman, Armin Mueller-Stahl and John Wood. Directed by John G. Avildsen (7) (871800)
1.15am Weather (3495223)
1.20 BBC News 24

- BBC2
6.10am Frederick the Great and Sans Souci (3234600) 6.35 On Pictures and Paintings (5495971)
7.00 Teletubbies (7) (9777548) 7.25 The Flintstones Comedy Show (5683155) 7.50 Blue Peter (7) (7824529) 8.15 Yogi's Treasure Hunt (7) (9727358) 8.35 Paddington Peas (7) (2251242) 8.45 The Record (4095432) 9.10 Susanne (2450513) 9.30 Pathways of Bellefleur (7495258) 9.45 Numberline (7310513) (83000) 10.00 Teletubbies (51797) 10.30 Watch (83000) 10.45 Geography (8102536) 11.10 2p Zag (825258) 11.35 History File (6384600) 12.00 Key Skills (98984) 12.30pm Working Lunch (25797) 1.00 Bump 1.05 Music and More 1.10 The Countryside Hour (1783567)
2.10 Flightline The Red Arrows and Russia's Red Stars. Plus: the technology that enables blind landings (7898277) 2.35 Tales from the Net (826390) 2.40 News 2.45 Westminster (7) (7828871) 3.25 News 3.30 Feast of Foyd (567)
4.00 Real Rooms (7) (5482426) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (7) (5485613) 4.55 Esther: Mail-order brides (6445600) 5.30 Today's Day (838)
6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air (7) (527548)
6.25 The O Zone Gloria Estefan; Bewitched; and Kenickie (617635)

- HTV
6.00am GMTV (9691819)
9.25 This Morning (7) (3547172)
9.30 Vanessa (7) (2291161)
10.10 This Morning (7) (28020277)
12.15pm Regional News (5937242)
12.30 News (7) and weather (18451)
1.00 Shortland Street (66161) 1.30 Home and Away (7) (17722) 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (3047074) 2.45 Waffle (445093)
3.15 News (7) (8232161)
3.20 Regional News (3239074)
3.25 Potamus Park (7) (8156797) 3.35 Wadzora (7) (8190364) 3.45 Paddington Bear (7) (2530264) 3.50 Rocky and the Dodos (2528229) 4.00 Scooby and Scrapy Doo (7) (7) (6089871) 4.15 Animal Ark (7) (339083) 4.45 Batman: The Animated Series (7) (7) (1874155)
5.10 WALES: Home and Away (8441364)
5.10 HTV 30 (3/3) (6441364)
5.40 News (7) and weather (897105)
6.00 Home and Away (7) (154074)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (719258)
6.25 HTV Weather (317822)
6.30 The West Tonight (529)
7.00 Emmerdale Kim finally loses her patience with Steve (7) (4519)
7.30 WALES: Grass Roots (513)
7.30 Take 3 (513)
8.00 The Bill Stamp irritates Hager with his constant advice (7) (3567)

- CENTRAL
As HTV West except.
1.00pm A Country Practice (66161)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (6067839)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6441364)
6.25-7.00 Central News (719258)
7.30-8.00 Heart of the Country (513)
1.20am Commando (1756136)
1.50 FILM: Echo of Diana (7557136)
2.05 The Matthew (9077827)
4.05 Central Jobfinder '98 (7660858)
5.20 Asian Eye (1102204)
WESTCOUNTRY
As HTV West except.
12.27pm-12.30 Illuminations (8292635)
1.00 Emmerdale (66161)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (6067839)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (8441364)
6.25-7.00 Westcountry Live (20242)
7.30-8.00 A Place in My Heart (513)
MIDLANDS
As HTV West except.
12.15-12.30 Meridian News and Weather (8937242)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (8441364)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (277)
6.30-7.00 Under Offer (529)
7.30-8.00 The Trek Three Years On (513)
5.05am FreeScreen (1802092)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (952428)
As HTV West except.
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (9823451)
1.00-1.30 Surprise Chets (66161)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6441364)
6.23 Anglia Weather (653141)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (719258)
7.30-8.00 Craven's Collectables (513)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (952428)
Stars: 6.00am Dweird (39180)
6.00 Sesame Street (11242)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (61616)
9.00 Yegollon (389161)
11.30 Powerhouse (1703)
12.00pm Montal Williams (80180)
12.30 Sesame Street (18093)
1.00 Slot Meltrih (11438074)
1.15 Deri Deg (11431529)
1.30 FILM: A Lawless Street (64567)
3.00 Wild About the Garden (3180)
3.30 Chelsea Live (635)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (242) 4.30 Countdown (7) (1877242) 4.55 Ricki Lake: Best of the Guests (6447068) 5.30 Pat Floucau (7) (906)
6.00 Roseanne (7) (819)
6.30 Home Improvement (7) (971)
7.00 Channel 4 News (7) (744172)
7.55 Open Your Mind Poetry (599345)
8.00 Tee Time (2/6) Chris Evans continues his tour of Scottish golf courses taking in St Andrews, headquarters of golf's ruling body, the Royal and Ancient club (7) (1108)
8.30 Brookside Max relives the memory of bringing up a Down's syndrome baby (7) (9136)
9.00 Tourist Trap: Culture Shock (2/6) A visit to a turtle beach; plus a toga party (7) (7398)
Police reconstruction (9.30pm)
9.30 Undercover Britains: Gun Law How gun enthusiasts have found a way round new gun laws (7) (4555)
10.00 Killer Net (3/4) Scott begins to panic when he is questioned by the police after the body is discovered (7) (1708074)
11.05 Planet Football Steve Clavin and Simon O'Brien visit Italy (556567)
12.05am Booked (6/8) With David Aaronovich and Times columnist Nigella Lawson (7) (386643)
12.50 The Unbelievable Truth (1989) A sideways look at small-town life in the Midwest. Robert Burke, Adrienne Shelley and Christopher Cooke. Directed by Hal Hartley (928440)
2.30 The Holylands (7) (3845020)
3.25 Halling a CAB (9927020)
3.50 Thomas: 73101001
4.00 Schools: Off Limits (8010369) 5.15 Off Limits (7202038) 5.40 Film and Video Showcase (853407)

- CHANNEL 4
6.00am Sesame Street (7) (11242)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (7) (61616)
9.00 Schools: Science in Focus. New series (8660155) 9.22 Lost Animals (5241065) 9.30 Eureka. New series (7317426) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (7418109) 10.00 Fourways Farm (4138058) 10.10 GNCV. New Series (8517819) 10.30 Chuck Wallace's Middle Age Spread (6206871) 10.45 Geography Junction (6204326) 11.00 First Edition (2642513) 11.15 Stage One (7273784)
11.30 Powerhouse (7) (1703) 12.00 Sesame Street (80180) 12.30pm Light Lunch with Harry Enfield and Helen Fielding (7) (24277)
1.30 Esther Waters (1947, 7.40) Kathleen Ryan as a 19th-century serving girl seduced by groom Dirk Bogarde. Directed by Ian Dalrymple and Peter Proud (7) (14432)
3.30 Chelsea Live The gold medals are awarded at the Flower Show (635)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (7) (242) 4.30 Countdown (7) (1877242) 4.55 Ricki Lake: Best of the Guests (6447068) 5.30 Pat Floucau (7) (906)
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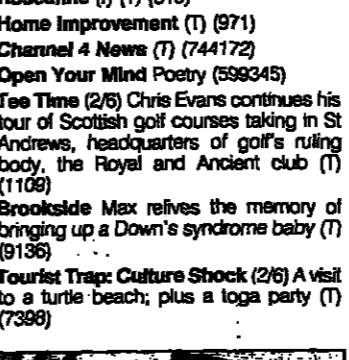
- CHANNEL 5
CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder N 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videotext decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder N 63 are: picture: 10.52075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
6.00am 5 News and Sport (813045)
7.00 WideWorld (7) (7) (3374906) 7.30 Milkshake (321160) 7.35 Wmnd's House (7162451) 8.00 The Hippopotamus (1894242) 8.30 Dappledown Farm (7) (183513) 9.00 Wild World of the East (7) (1770039) 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (7) (9475068) 10.20 Sunset Beach (7) (3425877) 11.10 Lozza (8050667)
12.05 News at Noon (1767529) 12.30pm Family Affairs (7) (7) (4454887) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (5327277) 1.30 Sons and Daughters (4452958)
2.00 Open House with Gloria Hunniford (Cagney meets the jazz star) Cico Laine and John Danworth (3888884)
3.00 100 Per Cent Gold Game show for the mature viewer (7138277)
3.30 A Lion Is in the Streets (1953) Political drama with James Gregory, Barbara Hale, Anne Francis and Lon Chaney Jr. Directed by Raoul Walsh (3518722)
5.10 The Oprah Winfrey Show (8828242)
6.00 100 Per Cent Game show without a host (2564093)
6.30 Family Affairs Mel encounters an admirer. Jack offers Claire some advice (7) (2555345)
7.00 5 News (1720258)
7.30 Realm of the Giant Salamander: The World of the Bees and Wasps: Seven-part series exploring the complex world of the insects (7) (2551526)
8.00 UFOs: Alien Obsession People who claim to have seen UFOs at very close quarters (7) (1404800)
9.00 Tom Horn (1980) Steve McQueen's penultimate film role. A frontier war re-telling the final days in the life of a Wyoming bounty hunter who is hired by ranch owners to drive away cattle rustlers. Also with Linda Evans and Richard Crampton. Directed by William Ward (7) (4184813)
10.55 The Jack Docherty Show Late night comedy, music and conversation (8828228)
11.35 Movie Cafe Film news presented by Julie Bradbury (1427364)
12.05am Live and Dangerous featuring 1.25 Australian Rules Football and AMA Supercross from Minneapolis (6451648)
3.45 Asian Football Show (5402339)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (1878136)
5.40 100 Per Cent (8908223)



Cricket news with Gower (6.45pm)



Bob Monkhouse competes (9.30pm)



Police reconstruction (9.30pm)



Cagney runs for governor (3.30pm)

- For further listings see Saturday's Vision SKY 1
7.00am Tainted Torque Alan Fights To New City (12.05) 7.30 Games World (6618432) 7.45 The Simpsons (18429) 8.15am Oprah (8888819) 8.30 Hired Guns (12.00) 8.55am News (12.00) 9.00am News (12.00) 9.30am News (12.00) 10.00am News (12.00) 10.30am M*A*S*H (47897) 1.00am Glee (62242) 1.30am The Next Generation (7.00) 1.50am Star Trek: The Next Generation (6.00) 2.00am Dream Team (6.00) 2.30am Married with Children (4.57) 3.00am The Simpsons (7.15) 3.30am Real TV (2.45) 3.00am Speed (5703) 3.30am Cop (4839) 4.00am The Bill (2.00) 4.30am The Bill (2.00) 5.00am The Bill (2.00) 5.30am The Bill (2.00) 6.00am The Bill (2.00) 6.30am The Bill (2.00) 7.00am The Bill (2.00) 7.30am The Bill (2.00) 8.00am The Bill (2.00) 8.30am The Bill (2.00) 9.00am The Bill (2.00) 9.30am The Bill (2.00) 10.00am The Bill (2.00) 10.30am The Bill (2.00) 11.00am The Bill (2.00) 11.30am The Bill (2.00) 12.00am The Bill (2.00) 12.30am The Bill (2.00) 1.00am The Bill (2.00) 1.30am The Bill (2.00) 2.00am The Bill (2.00) 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GOLF 52

Hackney put in shade by bright new talent

SPORT

TUESDAY MAY 19 1998

BASEBALL 53

Wells pitches way into record books



Calm descends on threat to England's future



Brittle: facing challenge.

THE apocalyptic vision for English rugby, as depicted in recent days by Fran Cotton, was reduced to a shadow in the bright sunlight on St Stephen's Green here yesterday.

Cotton, vice-chairman of the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) management board until his resignation last month — but still a member of the union's council — had called for the expulsion of England from the IRB because of the RFU's stance relative to the leading clubs. But delegates to the meeting here be-

tween the IRB executive committee and the RFU denied that so draconian a measure had ever been considered.

Vernon Pugh, the IRB chairman, described it as a "constructive day". Peter Brook, the RFU president who headed a five-man team, went even further. "We have had a very good, frank and constructive meeting which has been to the benefit of everyone," he said. "We have had a very happy day."

All of which might make the meeting sound like a storm in a teacup, particularly since Dick McGruther, chairman of the board's game regulations committee, had been summoned from Australia at considerable expense. If, however, the RFU has been able

to explain to southern-hemisphere representatives the nature of the Mayfair Agreement reached with the clubs earlier this month, and to stress the differences in European law which affect sporting bodies in the northern hemisphere, it will have been worth it.

McGruther's primary concern is to protect the primacy of the international game and the release of players for international duty. Recent selections of touring parties to the southern hemisphere have undermined his expectations but he said: "Both sides have a better understanding of what is required. We want to make sure we protect the future. We weren't satisfied that

the regulations as currently negotiated protect the players of all unions." He and Rob Fisher (New Zealand) will doubtless keep a careful eye on the future liaison between the board and the RFU over the final details of the Mayfair Agreement.

Curiously, the board initially saw no reason to comment on their 5 1/2-hour meeting, despite the extraordinary circumstances under which they met. It is unusual that a senior member such as England is called to explain events in their own country, though it is easy to understand the frustrations of other countries affected by the political infighting of the past two years.

The immediate reason for the meeting was the steps taken by the English First-Division Rugby clubs to appeal to the European Commission for clarification of their commercial and broadcast rights. That appeal will go ahead, though the RFU confirmed yesterday that it would make "a strong defence" against the complaints raised by the clubs.

In its original statement, the IRB required "unequivocal compliance" with its regulations, and any union not doing so put its membership at risk. However, the board admitted that it was "broadly satisfied" that the current draft of the agreement between the RFU and clubs was in conformity with the IRB regulations, but some aspects did raise

concerns that need to be further addressed". The clubs will be wary that there could yet be change to what has so far been achieved but the attitude of most of the RFU team as they left the IRB offices suggested that their fears could be allayed.

Where the day leaves Cotton and Cliff Brittle, the RFU board chairman who attended the meeting, remains to be seen. Brittle agreed there had been a "reasonable" exchange of views but otherwise held his fire. He faces a challenge to his position from Brian Baister at the union's annual meeting in July and his standing, together with that of Cotton, will hinge upon the support he receives from the grassroots clubs who have shown him such loyalty so far.

'Irresponsible' behaviour criticised Robson warns Gascoigne of 'last chance'

BY JOHN GOODBODY

BOBBY ROBSON said yesterday that Paul Gascoigne has a "duty to his country" to overcome his drinking habits and instead concentrate on playing for England in the World Cup.

Robson, who was the manager in 1990 when England, including Gascoigne, last played in the finals, said that he would still take the mercurial midfielder player to the tournament. Terry Venables, who coached England to the semi-finals of the 1996 European championship, also backed his inclusion.

The statements by two of Glenn Hoddle's predecessors follow more controversial incidents in the turbulent career of Gascoigne, who has been named in England's squad of 30 for their last three warm-up matches, but which Hoddle has to reduce to 22.

Last Thursday, Gascoigne was pictured leaving a London restaurant and one of his companions, Rod Stewart, the

veteran pop singer, said that Gascoigne had been drinking. He was also reported to have had a night out on Saturday with Chris Evans, the media personality.

Hoddle said on Sunday that Gascoigne was not certain to make the final squad because he was not 100 per cent fit. "I'll have more words with him," Hoddle said. "Certain things worry me and in certain things I still see he has genius in him. I have always said we are not out of the woods with Paul and I have said to him that he has to go 50-50 with me." Hoddle has also said that he would not ask Gascoigne to stop smoking.

Robson joined in the debate yesterday after seeing pictures of Gascoigne. "I am disappointed," Robson said. "He has to do better than that. If he wants to be in the World Cup, he has to get himself in absolute tip-top condition." Robson said that Gas-

coigne's behaviour was a "bit irresponsible" so close to the tournament. He said that the Middlesbrough player has "got to change. He knows all that. I am not prepared to lambast the boy".

While accepting that Gascoigne can choose what friends he has, Robson said that the player, the only member of the England party of 30 to have played in the World Cup finals, "needs to get people around him who can project him in a good light". He said: "It is Gascoigne's last chance. He should be told by people around him that he has a duty to the country.

"If he comes out and says 'I do not want to be part of the World Cup', then he can do what he wants. What would Gascoigne say if all the other players did the same on a Saturday night? He has to get hold of himself." However, Robson and Venables both insisted that Gascoigne should go to France. Robson described him as "priceless". He said: "I don't think you could leave him behind as the one clever midfielder who can score goals.

"We have some good midfielders — David Batty, Paul Ince, Paul Scholes and David Beckham — and they have their own qualities. But Gascoigne can see the pass that no one else can see. He can stick the ball through the eye of a needle at the right moment.



Gascoigne: controversial



Jersey beat: Tommy Smith, a great of the Shankly era, wears the classic Sixties kit and Michael Owen models the revival at the launch yesterday

MANCHESTER United recently claimed to have moved football shirt design forward with their new zip-front shirt design, but Liverpool have moved in the opposite direction with a distinctly traditional look to their new home shirt, launched today (Nick Szczepanik writes). The Reebok design, more or less identical to that of the Bill Shankly era, is bound to evoke memories of Ron Yeats, Ian St John and John Toshack, and advertising material that accompanies the launch capitalises on the association by tracing the later careers of some Liverpool legends. The price of the new shirt, however, at £44.99 in the adult long-sleeve version, reflects the reality of the replica shirt market in the late Nineties. For that price, players

and supporters will hope that the design does not suffer the same problems as other recent attempts to reintroduce round-necked design. A similar shirt by a different manufacturer was blamed by Swindon Town players for a loss of form last season (although it had not prevented them winning promotion a year earlier), while, in the 1995-96 campaign, some Leeds United players made alterations to a round-necked shirt. One unfortunate side-effect could be that the underachievement of the present squad may be thrown into even sharper relief by the similarity of their new kit to that worn by multi-medal-winners of the past. They might look like European Cup-winners, but will they play like them?



Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

- ACROSS: 1 Wasteful (11), 8 Shy (5), 9 Inform (7), 10 A British Isle; scream (4), 11 Veg. strainer (8), 13 Break in (6), 14 Mendicant (6), 17 Infirm; broken down (8), 19 Cut; bargain (4), 22 Bring cheer to (7), 23 Worthless scum (5), 24 Ripple round spectators (7,4). DOWN: 1 Admission; competitor (5), 2 Glass; acrobat (7), 3 (Officer's) assistant (4), 4 A long river; female warrior (6), 5 Set of letters (8), 6 Group of three (5), 7 Native servant; one with egotidings (6), 12 Vestigial organ; part of book (8), 13 Blue/violet dye plant (6), 15 Venice boat (7), 16 Adresco meal (6), 18 Spell; appeal (5), 20 Skiing track (5), 21 Norse war god (4).

Counties seek new filling to replace stale sandwich

BY SIMON WILDE

COUNTY cricket takes a step into the unknown today when six counties stage weekday matches in the Axa League, a tournament, until now, usually confined to Sundays. It is the first of several such exercises forced on counties by the successful campaigning of lobbyists who have the interests of cricketers — rather than club's coffers — at heart.

The experiment today will be tougher for the absence of the England players, whom David Lloyd, the national coach, assembled in London last night to start preparations for a busy summer of international fixtures, the first of which is against South Africa in the Texaco Trophy at the Oval on Thursday.



Today in The Times — a 16-page guide to the Pru Tour cycle race

and the tally of midweek games could increase. Few counties, however, are hopeful of drawing much public support away from weekends, although a full programme of nine matches next Monday should be an exception. It is a Bank Holiday and the England players should have returned.

Glamorgan are so pessimistic about today that they have activated a sponsorship arrangement with National Power so that everyone wishing to watch the match against Yorkshire at Cardiff will be admitted free of charge.

Marketing departments must be at their most imaginative if county cricket is to be successful on all fronts in a season made more difficult by clashes with high-profile events such as the football World Cup. The South Africans should remain an attraction at Canterbury today, even if Kent are without many leading players. Ealham and Fleming are subject to Lloyd's three-line whip and Hooper and Headley have been left out of the side.

Advertisement for 'PAYING TOO MUCH FOR LIFE INSURANCE?' with a table of insurance rates and contact information for Direct Life & Pensions.

Advertisement for 'Gascoigne in Last Chance Saloon' and 'Doctor in the' with various service listings.

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP advertisement for crossword titles.

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